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Friday
NOVEMBER 29, 2013

★ FREE ★
A Chicago Tribune publication

KEEP CALM *AND* MERRY ON

FAMOUS FOLKS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE TRADITIONS
PAGES 8-9

HOW ABOUT SOME WINE WITH THAT SHOPPING?
PAGES 36-38

BREAK TRADITION WITH OFFBEAT YULETIDE PLAYS
PAGE 12

WHERE TO FIND THE CTA HOLIDAY TRAIN
PAGE 20

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OUT-OF-TOWN RELATIVES
PAGES 6-7

HOW TO NOT SUCK AT HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING
PAGE 3

FESTIVE DINNERS TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR RIGHT THIS INSTANT
PAGE 22

SURVIVAL GUIDE GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

BLACK FRIDAY DINING DISCOUNT

Epic *112 W. Hubbard St. 312-222-4940*

Show your server at this River North restaurant a Black Friday retail receipt and get a 25 percent discount on all menu items including tuna tartare ($13-$15) and a short rib steak sandwich ($12). Or stop by from 5-7 p.m. when the entire lounge food menu—with choices such as mini-Cuban sandwiches and sliders—is half-price. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday.

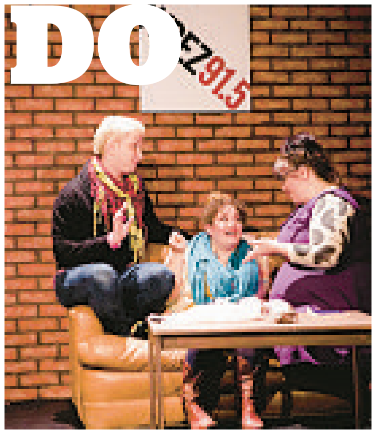
DRINK

HOLIDAY COCKTAIL SPECIALS

Kanela *1552 N. Wells St. 312-255-1206*

Stop in at this Old Town cafe for $18 bottomless mimosas with a food order and $8 winter cocktails, including the Spiked Pumpkin Latte (with dark rum, Kahlua and Baileys) and RumChata Chai Toddy. 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday.

DO



IT'S A WONDERFUL PRO-LIFE

Studio Be *3110 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-248-5900*

Comedy group 4 Days Late ("Jersey Shore: The Musical") performs their original play-within-a-play farce in which the ensemble attempts to record a radio show satirizing holiday commercialism and must band together to complete it when one member hijacks the show for his own purposes. 8 p.m. Saturday. Through Dec. 28. $15-$20. Tickets: **studio-be.org**

RAP KARAOKE

Jerry's
1938 W. Division St. 773-235-1006

Fight for your right to spit some rhyme at the first anniversary party for this hip-hop-themed karaoke night where DJs Trew and E. Brown spin underground anthems and house party classics and hip-hop artists Psalm One and Lady GemStar—along with rapper Fluff Nasty—host the action. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday. No cover.

FUNNY HA-HA: THANKS A LOT

Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433

Keep your holiday weekend party going at this comedic reading series starring "Bitches Gotta Eat" blogger Samantha Irby, The Moth GrandSlam champion Shannon Cason, The Encyclopedia Show co-founder Robb Q. Telfer, comedian Amy Sumpter, filmmaker Steve Delahoyde and host Claire Zulkey. Proceeds benefit the Neighborhood Writing Alliance. 6:30 p.m. Friday. $5.

—JULIA BORCHERTS FOR REDEYE

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY Drop off a new, unwrapped toy at Sprinkles (50 E. Walton St.) from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Dec. 1-15 and get a free cupcake of your choice.

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General Manager:
Amy Guth, *@amyguth*

Managing Editors:
Courtney Linehan,
@courtneylinehan
Kristin Samuelson,
@ksamredeye

CONTACT US

Newsroom: 312-222-4970
redeye@tribune.com
Advertising: 312-222-2615
Classifieds: 312-222-2222
Home Delivery:
1-800-TRIBUNE
Circulation:
redservice@tribune.com

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Volunteers at the Greater Chicago Food Depository
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

GIVING FOR GOOD

6 ways not to suck at volunteering this holiday season

By Rachel Cromidas | REDEYE

To some, the holiday season would be incomplete without a volunteering session at a local food bank or senior center. But many of Chicago's local nonprofit agencies find it hard to accomodate the glut of holiday volunteers while planning for leaner times the rest of the year. RedEye talked to some local nonprofit coordinators about what to do—and avoid—this year to make your time as a volunteer count. RCROMIDAS@TRIBUNE.COM | @RACHELCROMIDAS

Day of Beautification at Belding Elementary School
KERI WIGINTON/TRIBUNE FILE

1 **CAST A WIDE NET** Rather than reach out to nonprofit organizations individually, try working through a larger volunteer coordinating agency such as Chicago Cares or the Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago. These groups already know which organizations could use more manpower in December and can send you in the right direction.

2 **PLAN AHEAD** Once you find an organization or a cause to support, do some research and make contact well in advance of the time you want to volunteer, said Jenne Myers of Chicago Cares. "Don't call just the day before at the last minute," she said. "Plan early and don't just show up; there's just not the infrastructure to handle an overflow of volunteers."

3 **DON'T FLAKE** Once you make a commitment to volunteer at an organization, follow through with it. If you do need to cancel, give the coordinators as much advance notice as possible so they can prepare for alternative help.

4 **WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR** "Our website says that during the holidays is actually not the best time to do it," Myers said. "Use the time to sit around with your family or friends and figure out a time in March or April to come back to those agencies and figure out when you really are needed."

5 **DON'T GO ROGUE** Be cautious about trying to help people outside of a formalized volunteer setting. "Sometimes well-intentioned folks might want to adopt a homeless person," said Maura York, volunteer coordinator at Chicago Cares. "Use a vetted organization. You don't want to bring someone into your house or create a situation that might be unsafe for you or the other person."

6 **KEEP THE GIVING GOING** Consider volunteering on a regular basis rather than just seasonally. Patricia Kemp, communications manager at American Red Cross, suggests finding an organization that needs contributions throughout the year. You could donate blood or join one of the Red Cross teams that helps families recover from home fires, which are an issue year-round. Or, if you have a skill that people typically pay you to perform—like playing piano or tuning up bikes—consider donating that service to an organization that might need your help.

Michigan Avenue in December
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Bah humbug

Stephen Markley
» redeye@tribune.com
» @stephenmarkley

When the editors at RedEye were like, "We need a full-blown Scrooge column for our holiday issue. Get Markley," I objected. Yes, of course I'll gladly volunteer to write the Scrooge column—not because I fall under the umbrella term of a Scrooge per se, but simply because I have rational opinions about objective reality. Some of those opinions are nothing more than observations about why "Christmas" and the "holiday season" are kind of stupid. For instance:

» Jesus Christ was just a metaphor for the sun, not actually God or the son of God. God almost certainly does not exist. So that's awkward.

» Have you ever been on Michigan Avenue in December? Like seriously tried to walk from Delaware to the river? The hordes of Wisconsinians, Indianans, Aurorans, scarves like knitted tarps, college football beanie caps stuffed over balding pates bright-red from the cold, groins indistinguishable from belly fat, swarms of mucus-dripping toddlers screaming from their shins, whisked along like a sea of dough churning between the crosswalk lights, all of them idly toddling in front of you with their inept gazes lost in rapture at the city skyline, shopping bags clattering in hand, occasionally bruising the thighs of passersby, are literally the reason we can't beat al-Qaida.

» This column will almost certainly be interpreted as part of "the war on Christmas," but please don't take it that way because the people who actually do protest the nativity scene on Daley Plaza and object to nonsecular holiday songs in grade school pageants are way more obnoxious than the actual original obnoxious Christmas people because they're responsible for the whole war on "the war on Christmas." This then necessitates the war on the war on "the war on Christmas," and soon we're all lost in a Mobius strip when so many of us don't care at all in the first place.

» I've written about the horror of the omnipresence of Christmas music before, but it's worth repeating that standing in an ATM vestibule this time of year can actually be used as a defense in a manslaughter trial.

» Speaking of psychological disorders, the degree to which we are all caught up in consumer culture is bad, but during the Christmas season it borders on outright delusion. Inevitably, each year there will be YouTube videos of people stampeding each other to get Black Friday deals on Xboxes and jeans and KitchenAid blenders; there will be news stories of people getting seriously injured or trampled or even killed in order to secure a good deal. And how can you not sit back and have a moment of, "What the hell are we doing? What nadir of materialism and glossy-eyed want have we reached that we're ready to smash through a Wal-Mart door like they're holding on to the world's last jug of potable water? Are we really draining the planet of its final resources and wrecking the atmosphere in order to create plastic trinkets and electronic baubles that satisfy only our most fleeting of desires? And wait—Big Hugs Elmo actually hugs you back? It's a doll that genuinely embraces you and can reciprocate love via AA batteries?"

I already feel less lonely.

REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR STEPHEN MARKLEY IS THE AUTHOR OF "THE GREAT DYSMORPHIA" AND "PUBLISH THIS BOOK."

INSTAGRAM PHOTO STORIES

WORKING IN CHICAGO

How much of your life would you say you spend working or at work? A lot of it, right? Right.

Everyday stories and images from this place, where the majority of our time is spent, inspire us, and we want to hear about it. So we're starting a new Instagram-based photo project, and it's all about you:

What: 312Works, an Instagram storytelling project about the lives of Chicago workers
Where: Instagram! Find us at **@redeyechicago**. Also, check the mini-site, where we will post and feature submissions: **312works.tumblr.com**
How to get involved: Every two weeks, we will provide a new hashtag prompt for you, focused on one aspect of "working." Use it to tell a story on Instagram, using both a photo and a caption. Other than that? No rules—get creative!

We'll announce the new theme every other Tuesday, as well as feature the best of the crop from the last. Questions? Tweet us at **@redeyechicago** or visit the 312Works Tumblr (**312works.tumblr.com**). Can't wait to see what you come up with!

—JESSICA GALLIART, REDEYE SOCIAL MEDIA LADY

THE FIRST THEME IS:

COMMUTE

HASHTAG #312COMMUTE

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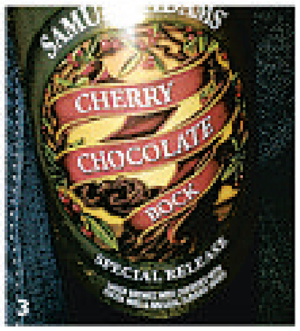

1. **@sarasmiles:** The fastest way for me to get to work. #312commute
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3. **@brithewebguy:** One of my favorite things about Metra? You can drink alcohol on board. I try not to board a train home without my #trainbeer. #312commute

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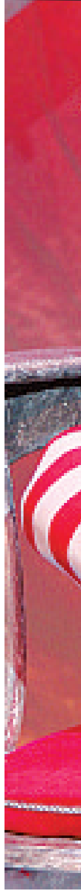
BE OUR GUESTS



HOLIDAY TO-DOS FOR EVERY KIND OF VISITOR

By Mick Swasko | REDEYE

’Tis the season for Aunt Mary, and host we now our dear friend Harold.

As if the stress of the holidays weren’t enough on its own, you have friends and family coming to town and get the added joy of serving as yuletide tour guide to your guests. Before you hit the eggnog and go cross-eyed from Google search results, read on. Your visitors are likely to fit into one of four distinct groups of guests, and luckily, Chicago has something for all of them. For the first- to the fifth-time visitors, the cultural connoisseurs to the holiday homebodies, there are plenty of options this year, and we’ve narrowed them all down for you.

MSWASKO@TRIBUNE.COM | @SWASKO
ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY EAT & DRINK EDITOR LISA ARNETT

THE BEEN THERE, DONE THAT CREW

They’re here. Again. And if they’ve completed their Chicago bucket list, you’re on the hook, because this crowd won’t do Navy Pier again. Thank the four stars on the Chicago flag that this city is bigger than the Loop, because you’re going to have to spread out to “wow” this bunch.

STEAK AT CHOP SHOP

If your crew has already done all the usual downtown steakhouses, then let them eat their steak and meet it, too. Head to **Chop Shop** (2033 W. North Ave. 773-537-4440), a recently opened butcher shop, steakhouse and bar hybrid in Wicker Park. Go for dinner and let them do the cooking (5 p.m.-midnight daily) or visit the meat counter (10 a.m.-9 p.m.) to snag a steak or chops to grill at home. *Details: chopshopchi.com*

ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE FILE

A NEW VIEW AT THE J. PARKER

It’s not as lofty as the Signature Room at the Hancock, but the 13th story restaurant **The J. Parker** (1816 N. Clark St. 312-254-4747) atop the Hotel Lincoln in Lincoln Park offers a completely different view of the city. Your veteran visitors can go home bragging they had a chance to eat small bites prepared by “Iron Chef” contestant Paul Virant. The outdoor portion of this rooftop venue is closed, but the 55-seat indoor bar is first-come, first served. *Details: jparkerchicago.com*

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

TOUR NEW DISTILLERY RHINE HALL

It doesn’t matter how many times they’ve been to Chicago, recently opened brandy and grappa distillery **Rhine Hall** (2010 W. Fulton St. 312-243-4313) will be new to your guests and probably you, too. For $7 starting Dec. 7, you can take a tour of the space (reserve your spot for 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. tours each Saturday) and taste the spirits on hand, including traditional and cinnamon-infused apple brandies. Reservations are recommended and tours top out at 20 guests. If you can’t book a tour, the tasting room will be open Thursdays from 5-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 2-7 p.m., but the whole distillery will be closed Nov. 30 and Dec. 26 and 28. *Details: rhinehall.com*

THE FIRST-TIMERS

The Chicago first-timer will mistake Trump Tower for the John Hancock as you scurry down Michigan Avenue, but it’s the holidays, so you decide to let it slip. It doesn’t matter if they’re friends or family, these folks are looking for the Chicago yuletide standards to mark the occasion of visiting the Windy City when it’s decked out in lights.

HEATHER CHARLES/TRIBUNE FILE

THE COUCH POTATOES

"Let's just stay in and watch the parade in New York." No. Listen, lazies, you're in the greatest city in the world, and you're not spending the holidays on the couch watching "A Christmas Story" on loop. Even if they're tied to your recliner, here are some sure-fire bets to get them out and about.

THE MUSIC BOX CHRISTMAS SHOW

Fine. Your guests like tradition. Compromise by seeing the **30th Annual Music Box Christmas Show**, where screenings of "It's a Wonderful Life" and "White Christmas" feature sing-alongs at the historic theater (3733 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-6607). Tickets ($12 for a single feature and $17 for a double) are available for nine dates between Dec. 13 and Christmas Eve, and all shows feature a visit from Santa and caroling led by the Music Box's house organist. Order in advance, as shows typically sell out.
Details and tickets: musicboxtheatre.com

'MIRACLE ON WELLS STREET'

If it's the aversion to overly earnest holiday schmaltz that is gluing your guests to your couch, drag them to The Second City's holiday revue at **Up Comedy Club** (230 W. North Ave. 312-662-4562), where the improv troupe unleashes its signature snark on all things yuletide. Tickets range from $23-$55 and shows run through Dec. 31.
Details and tickets: upcomedyclub.com

'THE SANTALAND DIARIES'

Peel your fam away from watching yet another rerun of "Elf" on TV with promise of fresher laughs at Theater Wit's rendition of David Sedaris' adventures working as an elf in a major department store. The show runs through Dec. 29 at **Theater Wit** (1229 W. Belmont Ave. 773-975-8150) and shows often sell out. *Details and tickets: theaterwit.org*

CHRISTKINDLMARKET

"Frohe Weihnachten." It's how the Germans wish you a Merry Christmas. "Christkindlmarket." It's how the Germans wish Chicago a happy holiday. First-time visitors can get a peek into the heart of downtown Chicago in Daley Plaza (50 W. Washington St.), where the annual market serves up traditional gluhwein (a hot spiced wine from Nuremberg), traditional German food and crafts. Open through Dec. 24. *Details: christkindlmarket.com*

ZOOLIGHTS AND ICE SKATING

This year, along with turning on roughly 2 million bulbs as part of its annual lights display that begins Friday, the Lincoln Park Zoo (2001 N. Clark St. 312-742-2000) offers ice skating inside the Farm-in-the-Zoo area. $10 to skate; zoo admission is free.
Details: lpzoo.org

MACY'S ANIMATED HOLIDAY WINDOWS

The windowscapes at this State Street department store (111 N. State St. 312-781-4483) are a Chicago holiday season classic, even if your guests know the iconic exhibit as a Macy's original when you still call it Marshall Field's. This year there are three new window displays, including a Frango Chocolate Factory and a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tribute featuring good ol' Snoopy. When you've taken in the windows outside, head inside to gawk at the Walnut Room's Great Tree, but instead of waiting for a table, try for a seat at the restaurant's first-come, first-served wine bar.
Details: visitmacyschicago.com

THE CULTURE VULTURES

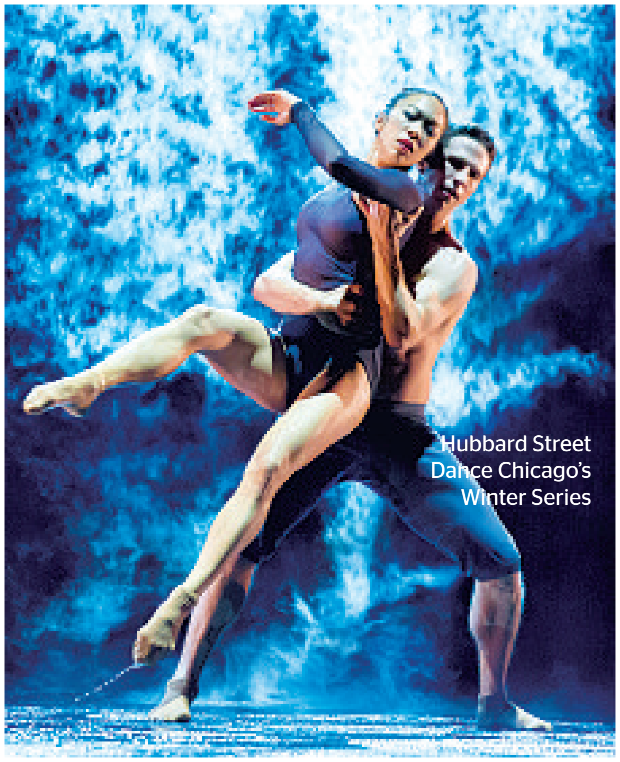
It doesn't matter if they're first-timers or return visitors to the city, this intellectual bunch will be looking for something to expand their horizons. Try these choices and your guests will leave with plenty to boast about back home.

MATZAH TO MENORAH: A HOLIDAY JAZZ CELEBRATION

Mark the eighth and final night of Hanukkah at the **Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership** (610 S. Michigan Ave. 312-322-1773) for "Matzah to Menorah: A Holiday Jazz Celebration," at 7 p.m. Dec. 5. Tickets run $15-$35 and the concert features singer Alberto Mizrahi and harmonica player Howard Levy with his jazz ensemble, Trio Globo.
Details and tickets: spertus.edu

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Take your wordly guests to this holiday exhibit at the **Museum of Science and Industry** (5700 S. Lake Shore Drive 773-684-1414) and they'll revel in 50 trees decorated by local volunteers with ties to the countries they represent, from Armenia to Japan to Wales. This exhibit is included in museum admission fee ($18 for adults, $17 for seniors and $11 for kids) through Jan. 4. *Details: msichicago.org*



Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Winter Series

MUSIC AND MORE AT THE HARRIS THEATER

Cloud Gate (aka The Bean) might be Millennium Park's obvious bragging right, but its most impressive hidden gem is the **Harris Theater for Music and Dance** (205 E. Randolph St. 312-334-7777), which has a deceivingly small main entrance off Randolph Street and is almost entirely underground. Plan ahead to snag tickets for shows such as Handel's "Messiah" sung by the Apollo Chorus (Dec. 21), Mary Wilson with The Four Tops (various times Dec. 23, 25-29 and 31, Jan. 2-5) or Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's Winter Series (Dec. 12-15), which features "One Thousand Pieces," a full-length piece choreographed by Alejandro Cerrudo inspired by Marc Chagall's stained glass artwork "America Windows."
Details and tickets: harristheaterchicago.org

CHICAGO CLASSICS

9 local athletes, actors, chefs and more share their holiday season traditions

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

The sound of bells jingling, the sight of snowflakes falling and that warm cozy feeling by the fireplace all signal one thing: holiday season in Chicago. RedEye caught up with athletes, chefs, actors and politicians to find out which holiday traditions they share with friends and family. LVIVANCO@REDEYECHICAGO.COM | @LVIVANCO; ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY REDEYE EAT & DRINK EDITOR LISA ARNETT.

ALEX GARCIA/TRIBUNE FILE

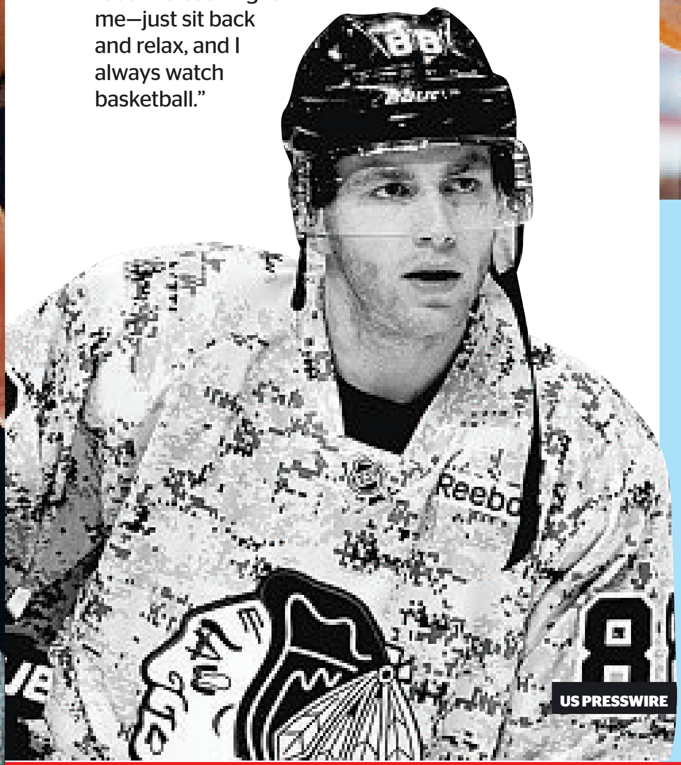
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Chef **Paul Kahan** (Blackbird, The Publican, Big Star) plans to take a break after spending this fall preparing for the December opening of his latest restaurant, Nico. "For New Year's Eve, [my wife] Mary and I always go out of town to a friend's cottage in Green Lake, Wis.," he said. "We celebrate with the Swiss tradition of raclette and drink lots of wine. I also do a bit of ice fishing on the bay."

CHILLIN' OUT

For Blackhawks player **Patrick Kane**, the holidays are a time for him to kick back, take his skates off and head home to Buffalo, N.Y. "I always try to go back home. Last year with the lockout going on, I was actually in Switzerland during Christmas, so it was a little bit different," he said.

This year, the Hawks don't play any games from Dec. 24-26. "We usually go to my aunt's Christmas Eve and then usually Christmas is at my house. So it'll be fun to see some family and friends for sure when I go back," Kane said. "I'm the guy that will be sitting on the couch just eating all the food. No cooking for me—just sit back and relax, and I always watch basketball."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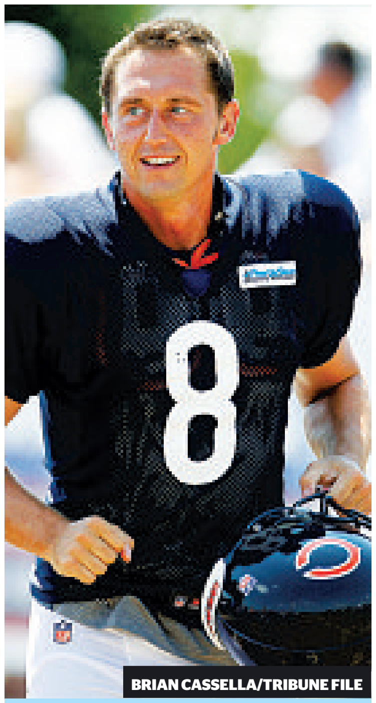

BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Bears punter **Adam Podlesh**, who is Jewish, lights the menorah while his wife, who is Christian, gets a Christmas tree. "Last year was the first year we got a tree. That was the first time I've ever had a tree in the house, which I thought was pretty cool," he said. "We did a little bit of the traditions of Hanukkah and also some traditions of Christmas."

NAUGHTY OR NICE?

Kristin Cavallari knows which tradition she plans to carry over from her childhood to her growing family with Jay Cutler. Their son, Camden, is 15 months old and she is pregnant with their second child. "Every Christmas, the elves would come seven nights before Christmas to leave either a little present or coal in our stockings, depending on our behavior that day. It was a lot of fun, so I will keep that tradition up with Camden and our other future children once they are old enough to understand it," she said.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

SOUP AND LATKES

For **Mindy Segal**, chef/owner of award-winning Bucktown restaurant Hot Chocolate, celebrating Hanukkah with her family means sitting down to one of her favorite meals of the year, cooked by her mother. "She makes potato latkes, and she makes brisket, and she makes her homemade applesauce and it's an amazing dinner, like, the best dinner she makes," she said. "It's delicious and I look forward to it every year." Segal also celebrates Christmas with her husband's family in Peotone, Ill. "We go to his family's [house] and we sleep overnight ... Their tradition is that they make soup Christmas Eve, and then they have a beautiful meal the next day." Last year, she made pozole; this year, the plan is split-pea.

PAJAMA JAM

Last year, three actors from "Chicago Fire"—**Yuri Sardarov**, Joe Minoso and Charlie Barnett—lived together in a downtown apartment at Wabash Avenue and Madison Street and decked the whole place out for Christmas. There were blue lights on the ceiling, tacky holiday stickers on the windows, fake snow on the ground and a huge tree, said Sardarov, who plays Otis on the show. Barnett bought adult onesies for the three of them and they wore them around the house.

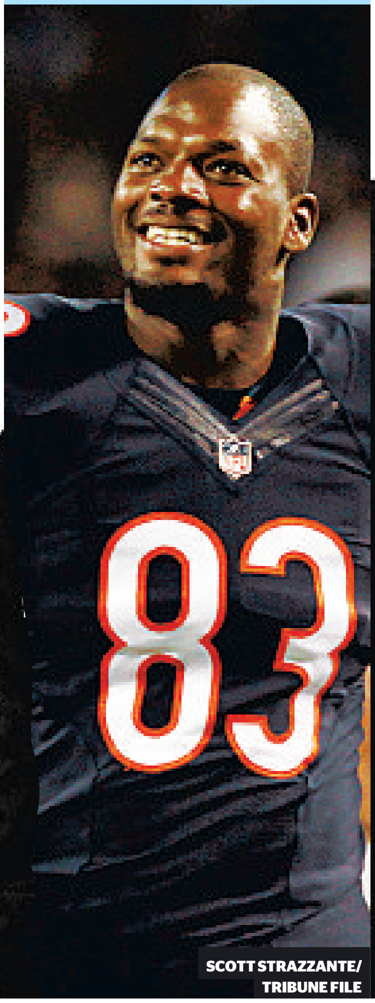
For the Sardarov family, traditional Russian dishes and sweets such as fruit cake and blintzes are on the table around the holidays at their Northbrook home. "I love being in the kitchen. I'm not bad [at cooking], but my family is so good they put me to shame," he said. So his parents and grandmother do the cooking while Sardarov and his 13-year-old brother indulge in the food. "They will cook all day. We'll sit and eat and have many drinks. My grandfather, who is a well-known jazz guitarist in Russia, he'll bust out the guitar," Sardarov said.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

A SUPER-SIZED TREE

It's been tough to get Bears player **Martellus Bennett**'s family all together for the holidays. Since his college football days at Texas A&M, he has had either a game or practice in late December, and the same for his brother, a Seattle Seahawks player. But that hasn't kept Bennett from hunting for the perfect 10-foot-tall Christmas tree. "I'm almost 7-foot, so, like, a 7-foot tree is not big enough," he said.

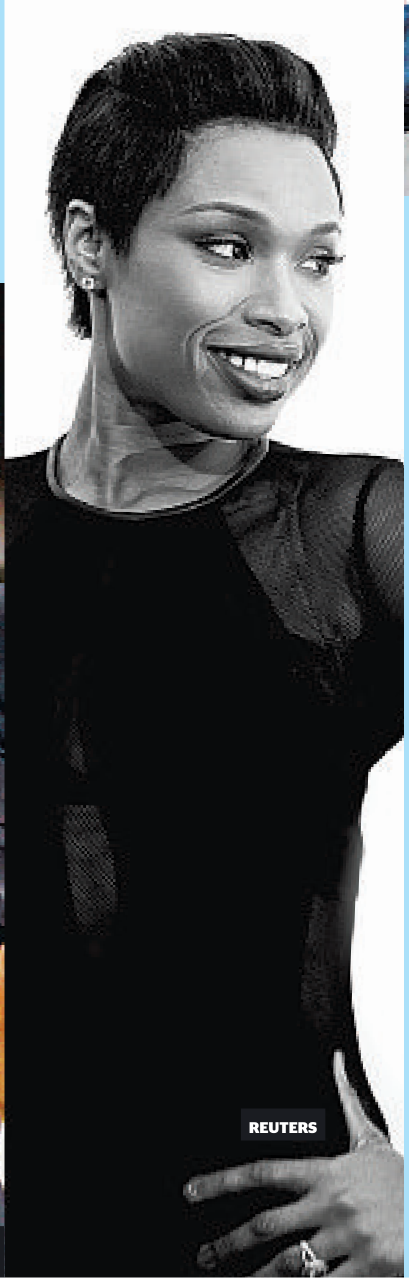
This holiday will his first with a baby on the way, so he'll start establishing his own traditions soon with his wife and daughter. In the meantime, he said, he'll be "decorating the tree and then doing some Christmas card photos." And that means the family holiday card will have his two dogs, Zero and Sebastian Janikowski, in it.



SCOTT STRAZZANTE/ TRIBUNE FILE

TOYS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

Every year, Oscar winner **Jennifer Hudson** makes time to come back home to Chicago. "I look forward to the holiday season every year because it's such a beautiful time of giving. My sister and I spend the second half of the year collecting toys for our Julian D. King Gift Foundation toy drive," she said. "We both love seeing the faces of all the deserving kids who light up when Santa arrives. It's a special tradition I share with my loved ones."



REUTERS

GIFTS GALORE

During the holidays last year, **Susana Mendoza** felt like a zombie. Chicago's City Clerk had just celebrated her one-year anniversary and had a baby. This winter, her family will be moving into a new home where she's planning to pass down some of her family traditions. Since her 10-month-old son is already walking and has the "cutest pair of actual shoes," she plans to celebrate Three Kings Day on Jan. 6, referring to the biblical story of three wise men who followed the North Star to see baby Jesus and bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As a child, she wrote a note to the three kings, like she would Santa Claus, and left the note in her shoes the night before. The next day, she woke up to unwrap more gifts. "That's keeping true to my Hispanic heritage," she said. "It's basically Christmas twice." Also on that day, the tradition continues with a bread roll baked with a baby Jesus figurine hidden inside. The person that gets the slice with the figurine will host the Day of the Candles party on Feb. 2 with tamales.

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Saints & scrooges

Stacey Andeen
» redeye@tribune.com
» @curvesandnerves

When I was in college, I had a seasonal job waiting tables at an enormous chain restaurant in a giant suburban mall that rhymes with "Schmoodfield," and I'm reasonably certain you can all guess how awesome that was.

Shockingly, given that I had to deal with so many suburban families and their awful children during my summer and winter breaks, it wasn't the worst job I've ever had. But the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's were completely different—mostly in a fantastic way, and sometimes in an unbelievably crappy way.

It's interesting that there isn't much of a middle ground: People are either beaming rays of sunshine and goodwill and generosity or needy, impatient, entitled beasts from hell. The switch can flip from "saint" to "scrooge" in a second, especially once you've sold out of mussels or whatever sweater in size XXL.

There are, of course, some theories about why people's personalities do a complete 180 at the onset of the holiday season—they're under a lot of stress, there's a lot going on in a short period of time and who knows what else. And maybe all that comes to a head when expectations aren't met and people just lose their minds at whichever poor soul happens to be in their line of sight.

A friend of mine worked at a clothing store and was regularly accosted by shoppers who were irate about the lack of a certain size or the inability to return something. Add to that some holiday music on repeat and you have a horrible, candy cane-striped time bomb.

Those in the restaurant industry don't have it any better. Most restaurants remain open on holidays and those who are stuck working are spending their Thanksgivings and Christmas Eves with strangers and not their families. I spent last New Year's Eve hauling cases of wine up and down flights of stairs and trying not to get run over by some wasted chick tottering around in way-too-tall heels.

But thankfully, not everyone reacts negatively to the holiday season. Some people become generous and warm and wonderful, and when your whole job revolves around your interactions with other people, it makes going to work feel less like work.

At one bar, my regulars and I participated in gift exchanges and attended each other's holiday parties. At another job, a man inquired about my holiday plans, learned that I was trying to travel abroad over New Year's and left me a ridiculously generous tip with the note "Viva Italia!"

And I guess that's the main takeaway here: Be nice to others. Keep your expectations reasonable. And if something doesn't go the way you want it to go, take a deep breath and don't take out your frustrations on another person. Target might run out of big-screen TVs. A restaurant might overcook your steak. You might be really crappy at wrapping presents. But the season isn't about TVs and steak and online shopping. It's about being good to other people, and I think we can all raise a glass to that.

And if you're the sort of person who is a jerk to retail and restaurant workers, I hope your stocking is full of coal.

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TWISTED CHEER

Break tradition with these offbeat holiday plays

By Julia Borcherts | FOR REDEYE

For many Chicagoans, the holiday season involves two long-standing traditions: the Joffrey Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker" and the Goodman Theatre's "A Christmas Carol." And while those two iconic productions are not to be missed, why not mix it up with these eight holiday-themed plays—including five wildly different takes on "A Christmas Carol" to help you get your "bah, humbug" on.

'We Three Lizas'

About Face Theatre stages artistic associate Scott Bradley and Alan Schmuckler's newly expanded, sparkly, LGBT homage to Dickens—and Ms. Minnelli—in which cardboard manufacturing magnate Conrad Ticklebottom's personal and professional downward spiral takes a magical left turn when a trio of Lizas appears.

Go: Through Jan. 5 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: $20-$45. $10-$20 for students; 773-327-5252; **aboutfacetheatre.com**

'A Klingon Christmas Carol'

Commedia Beauregard boldly goes where no theater company has gone before as they beam up a newly revamped edition of their "Star Trek"-themed adaptation—performed in the Klingon language with English supertitles—in which three ghosts must convince Scrooge to adopt the Warrior Code of Honor in time to save Tiny Tim from a terrible fate.

Go: Through Dec. 29 at Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St.

Tickets: $20-$30. 773-338-2177; **raventheatre.com**

'The Nutcracker'

Live action, puppetry, spectacle and song bring to life The House Theatre of Chicago's original musical based on E.T.A. Hoffmann's dark story of magic and hope in which a brave young girl and a magical nutcracker must battle a rodent king to save her family.

Go: Through Dec. 29 at the Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.

Tickets: $25-$45. 773-769-3832; **thehousetheatre.com**

'Christmas Dearest'

Hell in a Handbag Productions mounts the world premiere of artistic director David Cerda's camptastic, gender-bending Dickens tribute in which a cast member playing actress Joan Crawford serves as a glamorous Scrooge forced to face her past, present and future while coping with exasperating career, home and family crises.

Go: Through Dec. 29 at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Tickets: $15-$110. 800-838-3006; **handbagproductions.org**

'A Q Brothers Christmas Carol'

From Chicago-based playwright-composer siblings JQ and GQ ("Othello: The Remix") and castmates Jackson Doran, Postell Pringle and DJ Super Nova comes a workshop production of Dickens' tale set to a reggae, dancehall, hip hop, dubstep and epic rock ballad soundtrack featuring such characters as a Jamaican Jacob Marley.

Go: Through Dec. 22 at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, 800 E. Grand Ave. (Navy Pier)

Tickets: $20-$35. 312-595-5600; **chicagoshakes.com**

'HoliDaze'

Step Up Productions presents a showcase of humorous and dramatic holiday-themed one-acts featuring a depressed court jester, a newly engaged gay couple's attempts to unite their families and more by Chicago scribes Joshua Rollins ("A Girl with Sun in Her Eyes"), Steve Simoncic ("Broken Fences"), Nambi E. Kelley ("Milk"), Lisa Dillman ("Detail of a Larger Work") and Tate Geborkoff ("Minotaur").

Go: Through Dec. 22 at The Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave.

Tickets: $15-$30. 773-935-6875; **stepupproductions.org**

'Winter Pageant'

Redmoon's 15th annual seasonal spectacle—an original myth inspired by the poem "The Conference of the Birds" by Farid ud-Din Attar—features collaborations with The Happiness Club hip-hop dancers, belly dancers from Pineapple Dance Studio, Indonesian Dance of Illinois, Kalapriya Dance, aerialist Helena Reynolds, Mexico City-based clown artist Cordova Hernandez and surf rock band The San Andreas Fault.

Go: Dec. 13 through Dec. 22 at Redmoon, 2120 S. Jefferson St.

Tickets: $25. $10 for students; 312-850-8440; **redmoon.org**

'If Scrooge Was a Brother'

The Eta Creative Arts Foundation mounts the Chicago premiere of Memphis-based playwright Ekundayo Bandele explores the shifting dynamics of African-American culture through the lens of Dickens' classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the true meaning of Christmas.

Go: Through Dec. 29 at Eta Square, 7558 S. South Chicago Ave.

Tickets: $30. 773-752-3955; **etacreativearts.org**

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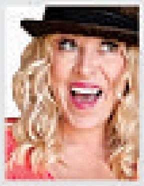
DECKED OUT

Luckily, you shouldn't find any of our panelists in a foul mood this holiday season. Well, maybe give Soxman some space.

	Elliott Serrano @elliottserrano **Geek specialist**	**Soxman** @thesoxman72 **Caped Sox crusader**	**Mike Walton II** @zenmastermike **TrueStar sports editor**	**Ben Johnson** @itsbenjo **ID Chicago comedian**	 **Aly Bockler** @chicagoaly **You & Me This Morning on WCIU, the U**
1 What's your favorite sports holiday tradition?	I'd say reindeer games, but they never let me play.	Black Friday! Replaying the 2008 White Sox's blackout division-winning game is an emotional doorbuster!	Pretending that the Detroit Lions and Dallas Cowboys deserve Thanksgiving home games.	The Lions losing on Thanksgiving. Least favorite: the Cowboys winning on Thanksgiving.	Is digesting a sport?
2 Who's been the biggest Chicago sports turkey of 2013?	Ald. Tom Tunney and the Wrigleyville rooftop owners.	The White Sox roasted at the plate, tryptophan-laced energy ... a fowl season overall.	Um ... Jay Cutler, but only because he resembles a turkey.	Probably the one Starlin Castro ate before falling asleep for an entire year.	Jake Peavy, who stunk here only to get shipped to Boston to win a World Series. Lucky duck. I mean, turkey!
3 Who's set up for a big month of December?	I hear that Coach Q's 'stache has some new winter gear to debut.	Kristin Cavallari. Being preggo with Cutler No. 2, she can only get bigger, right?	Derrick Rose. He got his Christmas gift early: the gift of watching basketball.	NPA (North Pole Association) statistics say Prancer has been great in limited minutes.	The Blackhawks merchandise store. Hey Ma, Christmas is coming and I've been a real good girl, hint hint!
4 Football is to Thanksgiving weekend as ...	... turkey is to my belly. GIMME MORE!	... Alex Rodriguez is to PEDs. One involves turkey and the other IS a turkey.	... LeBron James is to receding hairlines.	... vibrating chairs are to the airport Brookstone. If I'm sitting, that'd better be why.	... Eddie is to JoBo.
5 If you gave a gift to an athlete, what would it be?	Bionic feet to Joakim Noah. We can rebuild him. We have the technology.	I'd get Tony Stark to make an Iron Man suit for Derrick Rose and Jay Cutler.	I would give LeBron James a young man's hairline.	I'd give Derrick Rose a step-back jump shot.	Adam Dunn gets a plane ticket out of Chicago ... forever.

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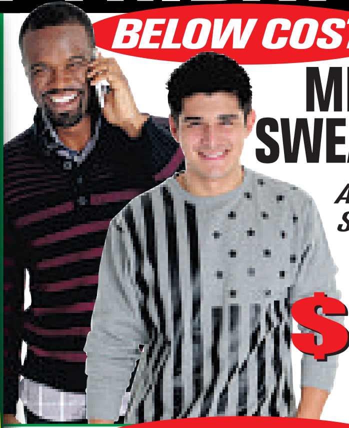

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FREE MUSEUM DAYS

By Rianne Coale | FOR REDEYE

If your visiting friends or family are clamoring for a museum visit, save some cash by taking advantage of free admission days during December.

Adler Planetarium

1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
312-922-7827

Free admission for Illinois teachers and active military personnel

Museum of Science and Industry

5700 S. Lake Shore Drive
773-684-1414

Free admission on Dec. 9 for all Illinois residents

National Museum of Mexican Art

1852 W. 19th St. 312-738-1503

Free admission

Swedish American Museum

5211 N. Clark St. 773-728-8111

Free admission Dec. 10

Museum of Contemporary Art

220 E. Chicago Ave. 312-280-2660

Free admission for Illinois residents on Tuesdays (Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Loyola University Museum of Art

820 N. Michigan Ave. 312-915-7600

Free admission on Tuesdays (Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Shedd Aquarium

1200 S. Lake Shore Drive
312-939-2438

Free admission for Illinois residents on Mondays (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30). Free mini-pass admission for visitors who present a valid Bank of America/Merrill Lynch ATM, credit or debit card, along with photo ID the weekend of Dec. 7-8

Clarke House Museum

1827 S. Indiana Ave. 312-326-1480

Free admission on Wednesdays (Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25)

Glessner House Museum

1800 S. Prairie Ave. 312-326-1480

Free admission on Wednesdays (Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25)

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum

2430 N. Cannon Drive 773-755-5100

Free admission for Illinois residents on Thursdays (Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26)

Art Institute of Chicago

111 S. Michigan Ave. 312-443-3600

Free admission for Illinois residents on Thursdays 5-8 p.m (Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26)

The Field Museum

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Free admission for Illinois residents on Dec. 2, 5, 9, 10, 11. Free admission for Illinois teachers and active military personnel every day

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■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ 11:00, 1:55, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40
■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) 1:30, 9:35
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:15, 12:30, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:45, 9:45, 10:15
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) Đ 10:30
■**About Time** (R) Đ 10:40, 4:00, 6:50
■**Last Vegas** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:25
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:30, 2:30, 5:05, 8:00, 11:00
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) Đ 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
■**Black Nativity** (PG) ★ Đ 10:10, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:25, 10:50
■**Homefront** (R) ★ Đ 11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:30

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■**Dallas Buyers Club** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 10:10, 1:15, 4:05, 7:20, 9:55
■**12 Years a Slave** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 10:15, 1:20, 4:20, 7:45
■**Nebraska** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 3:00, 4:35, 7:15, 8:40, 10:00
■**Blue Is the Warmest Color** (NC-17) Đ 1:00, 4:50, 8:30
■**The Book Thief** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
■**Philomena** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:10, 12:00, 1:50, 4:40, 6:00, 7:10, 9:35

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)

2600 N. Western Ave.
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■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire -- The IMAX Experience** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:30, 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 9:30, 1:00, 4:30, 8:00, 11:30
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 2:40, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
■**Oldboy** (R) (Closed caption) 9:20, 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10
■**Black Nativity** (PG) (Closed caption) 8:35, 10:55, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 8:45, 11:35, 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 9:00, 11:30, 12:30, 3:00, 4:00, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) (Closed caption) 11:05, 2:05, 4:55, 7:45, 10:45
■**Free Birds** (PG) (Closed caption) 9:25, 12:45, 3:45
■**Ender's Game** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 6:45, 9:45
■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 8:55, 11:25, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35
■**Gravity** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:55
■**Frozen** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 8:40, 9:10, 11:20, 11:50, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
■**Homefront** (R) (Closed caption) 8:50, 11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40, 11:55
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:10, 2:15, 5:00, 8:05
■**Thor: The Dark World 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:55

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■**Frozen** (PG) ★ 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
■**Homefront** (R) ★ 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 9:45
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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■**Frozen** (PG) ★ Đ 11:30, 1:30, 2:00, 3:15, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15, 9:45
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ 10:55, 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:20, 12:00, 12:45, 2:55, 3:30, 6:30, 7:00, 9:15, 9:45, 10:15
■**Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2** (PG) Đ 11:10, 1:45
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ 11:00, 4:00, 9:15
■**Oldboy** (R) ★ Đ 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:15, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:05
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) ★ Đ 10:45, 1:40, 3:55, 4:30, 6:50, 7:20, 9:40, 10:10
■**Free Birds** (PG) Đ 11:25, 1:50, 4:10, 6:35, 9:05
■**Black Nativity** (PG) ★ Đ 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
■**Homefront** (R) ★ Đ 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
■**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa** (R) Đ 4:05, 6:40, 9:10
■AMC Independent **12 Years a Slave** (R) Đ 12:05, 6:00

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■**Black Narcissus** (NR) 5:30
■**Contempt** (NR) 5:30
■**The Servant** (NR) 7:45
■**Lenny Cooke** (NR) 7:45

LOGAN THEATRE

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■**William Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet** (PG-13) 10:30
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) 2:30, 5:15, 7:55
■**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa** (R) 8:00, 10:00
■**Free Birds** (PG) 2:10, 4:10, 6:00
■**Gravity** (PG-13) 2:25, 4:20, 6:15, 8:10, 10:05
■**Kill Your Darlings** (R) 2:00, 4:00, 6:05, 8:10, 10:15

MUSIC BOX

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■**Concussion** (R) 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40, 12:00
■**The Sound of Music Sing-A-Long** (NR) 4:00, 8:30
■**Stand by Me** (R) 12:00

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Show times change daily

■**Frozen** (PG) Đ 10:00, 11:00, 12:45, 3:30, 4:30, 6:15, 9:00, 10:00, 12:00
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) 10:30, 4:20, 7:15, 9:45
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:45, 12:00, 12:50, 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 6:30, 7:00, 7:45, 8:30, 9:15, 10:00, 10:30, 11:15, 11:45
■**Ender's Game** (PG-13) Đ 10:00
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) Đ 7:05
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ 1:45, 7:15
■**About Time** (R) Đ 10:05, 1:05, 4:05
■**Oldboy** (R) ★ Đ 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30, 12:00
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:55, 2:40, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) Đ 10:10, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
■**Free Birds** (PG) Đ 10:50
■AMC Independent **The Book Thief** (PG-13) Đ 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20
■**Black Nativity** (PG) ★ Đ 10:15, 11:45, 12:45, 2:15, 3:15, 4:45, 5:45, 8:15, 9:40, 10:45
■AMC Independent **Dallas Buyers Club** (R) Đ 10:35, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25
■AMC Independent **Nebraska** (R) ★ Đ 10:40, 11:50, 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15
■AMC Independent **Philomena** (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 12:30, 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
■AMC Independent **Bullett Raja** (NR) ★ Đ 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
■**Homefront** (R) ★ Đ 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15, 11:45
■**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa** (R) Đ 10:15
■AMC Independent **12 Years a Slave** (R) Đ 1:00, 6:45

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #2309

■**Frozen** (PG) ★ Đ 9:00, 10:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:50
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) 7:05
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) Đ 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 3:15, 5:00, 5:45, 6:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:00, 9:45, 10:15, 11:30, 12:15
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) Đ 11:00
■**Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2** (PG) Đ 11:00
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:50
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire -- The IMAX Experience** (PG-13) ★ Đ 9:15, 12:45, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00
■**Last Vegas** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 12:30, 8:40
■**Oldboy** (R) ★ Đ 11:20, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 12:10, 2:45, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) ★ Đ 10:50, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50
■**Free Birds** (PG) Đ 9:45, 2:05, 4:35
■AMC Independent **The Book Thief** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:20
■**Black Nativity** (PG) ★ Đ 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
■AMC Independent **Dallas Buyers Club** (R) ★ Đ 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■AMC Independent **Philomena** (PG-13) ★ 11:50, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 10:00
■**Homefront** (R) ★ Đ 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
■**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa** (R) Đ 9:30
■AMC Independent **12 Years a Slave** (R) Đ 9:30, 3:00, 11:15

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 4:20, 9:50
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 9:00, 9:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:10, 10:20, 11:00, 11:30
■**Black Nativity** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10:00
■**Frozen** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:40, 7:10
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 9:20, 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:40
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) (Closed caption) 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:10, 5:05, 7:45, 10:45
■**Thor: The Dark World 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:10
■**About Time** (R) (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 9:50, 1:15, 4:25, 7:25, 10:35
■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 2:50, 5:15, 7:35, 10:05
■**Gravity** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:20

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

■**Frozen** (PG) ★ Đ 10:00, 12:45, 1:45, 2:30, 3:30, 5:15, 6:15, 7:15, 9:00
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) Đ 10:10, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:00
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) Đ 7:10, 10:10
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ 11:00, 4:30, 10:00
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) Đ 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, 3:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15
■**Free Birds** (PG) Đ 11:40, 2:10, 4:40
■**Black Nativity** (PG) Đ 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
■**Homefront** (R) ★ Đ 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
■**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa** (R) Đ 5:35, 8:00, 10:25
■AMC Independent **12 Years a Slave** (R) Đ 11:25, 2:30

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cerrnak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

■**Frozen** (PG) ★ Đ 10:45, 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ 10:15, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:15
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:15, 10:45, 1:45, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 8:45, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ Đ 1:00
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ 10:00, 12:45, 3:30, 6:15
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 9:00
■**Oldboy** (R) ★ Đ 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ Đ 10:10, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) Đ 11:45, 12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30
■**Free Birds** (PG) Đ 10:50, 1:15
■**Black Nativity** (PG) ★ Đ 10:20, 11:20, 1:00, 2:00, 3:30, 4:30, 6:10, 7:00, 8:40, 11:10
■**Homefront** (R) ★ Đ 10:05, 12:40, 3:20, 6:05, 8:40, 11:15
■**Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa** (R) Đ 11:30

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 7:50, 10:20
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:15
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:15, 5:00
■**Frozen** (PG) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 6:50
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) 9:30
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:50, 4:50, 8:00, 10:50
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 9:50
■**12 Years a Slave** (R) (Closed caption) 11:50, 3:10, 6:20, 9:45
■**Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2** (PG) (Closed caption) 10:15
■**Dallas Buyers Club** (R) (Closed caption) 10:40, 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40
■**Oldboy** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:20, 2:00, 5:10, 8:10, 10:55
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) (Closed caption) 6:40, 9:40
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
■**The Book Thief** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45
■**Homefront** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 10:20, 1:10, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00
■**Black Nativity** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:10, 12:40, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10
■**Frozen** (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:50

VIP Premium 21+

■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ ✓ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:15
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) ***VIP Premium 21+*** 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

■**Frozen** (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:20, 7:00
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 4:40, 9:20
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
■**The Book Thief** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:25, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25
■**Philomena** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123 ♿

■**Gravity 3D** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:25, 7:45, 10:30
■**Captain Phillips** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 1:50
■**The Best Man Holiday** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 10:20, 1:20, 4:25, 7:20, 10:20
■**Oldboy** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
■**Ender's Game** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 12:10
■**12 Years a Slave** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:10
■**Free Birds** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 11:15
■**Dallas Buyers Club** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:05, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:25
■**Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:20, 5:00, 10:40
■**Thor: The Dark World 3D** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:05, 7:50
■**The Book Thief** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 12:30, 4:05, 7:10, 10:15
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:50, 5:10, 8:30
■**The Hunger Games: Catching Fire** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 1:00, 2:40, 3:30, 4:20, 6:00, 6:50, 7:40, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00
■**Nebraska** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 5:00, 7:25, 10:15
■**Delivery Man** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35
■**Black Nativity** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15
■**Homefront** (R) Đ (Closed caption) 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45
■**Frozen** (PG) Đ (Closed caption) 10:20, 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:20
■**Frozen 3D** (PG) (Closed caption) 11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25
■**Philomena** (PG-13) Đ (Closed caption) 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

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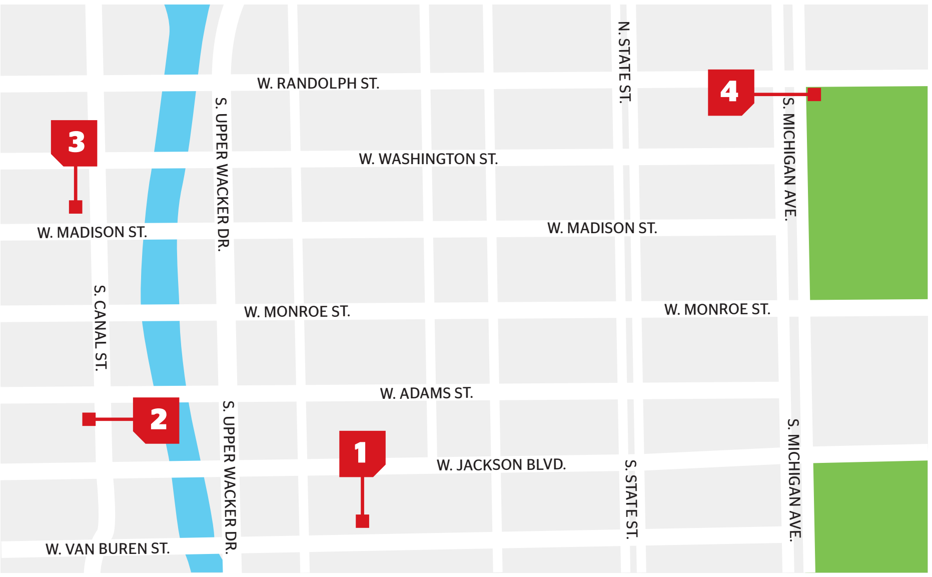
BOOZE BEFORE YOU CRUISE

By Jessica Gray | FOR REDEYE

When going home for the holidays means braving long ticket lines, crowded trains and Grandma berating you about why you and your live-in sig other haven't tied the knot yet, it's a wonder you haven't figured out how to mainline whiskey directly into your veins. Boost your tolerance for both stress-filled travel and family drama with liquid courage from these bars located in or near downtown train stations.



TRIBUNE FILE

1 LASALLE STREET STATION: Poag Mahone's

333 S. Wells St. 312-566-9100

Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Thursday-Friday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m., closed weekends

Taking the Rock Island District Metra? The one-block walk past the station is worth it to take advantage of craft beer specials at this Loop bar. Enter on Wells Street or at 175 Jackson Blvd. and check the chalkboard for the daily craft beer of the month ($5). Other daily specials include $6 glasses of wine on Tuesdays and $5 you-call-it American craft drafts on Thursdays.

Also try nearby: Ceres Cafe (141 W. Jackson Blvd. 312-427-3443) for seriously stiff mixed drinks and **Elephant & Castle** (111 W. Adams St. 312-236-6656) for draft brews and poutine.

2 UNION STATION: The Metro Deli and Sports Bar

210 S. Canal St. 312-655-0600

Hours: 10:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Enter Union Station through the Great Hall and you'll find this bar on your way to the ticket window. Hit up the portable bar out front to grab a 24-ounce beer, 187-milliliter wine (about one glass) or cocktail for the ride. If you have time to kill before catching the Metra to the 'burbs or an Amtrak train out of state, claim a barstool inside and wait it out until boarding time.

South Branch
METROMIX FILE

Also try nearby: South Branch (100 S. Wacker Drive 312-546-6177) for an impressive lineup of whiskeys and **Dylan's Tavern and Grill** (118 S. Clinton St. 312-876-2008) for rotating drink and food specials.

3 OGILVIE TRANSPORTATION CENTER: Ovie Bar & Grill

120 N. Canal St. 312-902-1111

Hours: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday and holidays

This hub for Metra trains headed to the north and west 'burbs features two grab-and-go bars near the main platform entrances, but Ovie—with its white tablecloths, cushy booths and 46-inch TVs—is made for lingering. Wait for the next train with a Moscow mule ($12) or Pear and Elderflower martini ($13). For a quick grab, there's also a bar cart stocked with wine and beer ($3-9), including delectable craft options such as tallboys of Half Acre Gossamer ale and Vander Mill Totally Roasted cider.

Also try nearby: CH Distillery (564 W. Randolph St. 312-707-8780) for craft cocktails made with distilled-on-site spirits; **New Line Tavern** (201 N. Clinton St. 312-212-5463) for a full bar plus snacks; and recently opened **Burger Joint** inside the Ogilvie food court (500 W. Madison St.) for burgers and draft beer.

4 MILLENNIUM STATION: M Bar

151 N. Michigan Ave. 312-929-3080

Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

On your way to catch the Metra Electric line, look for this bar in the Millennium Station pedway at slot C16. There's room to sit and sip a drink of your choice, or grab a beer—a 24-ounce domestic ($4.25), import ($5.25) or 16-ounce craft brew ($5)—for the ride.

Tavern at the Park
METROMIX FILE

Also try nearby: Tavern at the Park (130 E. Randolph St. 312-552-0070) for wines by the glass and **The Gage** (24 S. Michigan Ave. 312-372-4243) for seasonal craft cocktails.

FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

2-FOR-1 APPS FROM 5-8PM
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$3 PINNACLE MIXED DRINKS

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PINNACLE
Blueberry
PINNACLE
Grape
PINNACLE
Raspberry
PINNACLE
Whipped
PINNACLE
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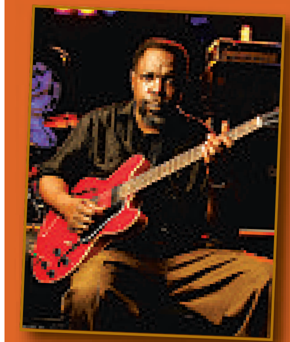

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
Main Stage:
Eddie Shaw
North Stage:
Joanna Connor
Acoustic Set: 7:30pm-8:30pm
Bands start at 9:30pm

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
Main Stage:
Lurrie Bell
North Stage:
Joanna Connor
Acoustic Set: 7:30pm-8:30pm
Bands start at 9:30pm

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SURVIVAL GUIDE | CTA

HERE COMES THE HOLIDAY TRAIN

By Mick Swasko | REDEYE

It's the most wonderful train of the year.

The CTA announced the 2013 Holiday Train schedule Tuesday, and the Green Line will be the first route it travels beginning Friday. The CTA notes the decked-out train is out on the tracks from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends and 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on select weekdays.

The six-car train is decorated inside and out with thousands of lights, and pasted up with colorful seasonal images on the outside. The holiday train makes its last stop on the Yellow Line this year Dec. 23.

Red Line train
CHUCK BERMAN/TRIBUNE FILE

Green Line
Friday, Nov. 29
Saturday, Nov. 30
Tuesday, Dec. 3

Pink Line
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Wednesday, Dec. 11

Yellow Line
Monday, Dec. 23

Blue Line
Thursday, Dec. 12
Friday, Dec. 13
Saturday, Dec. 14

Red Line
Tuesday, Dec. 17
Thursday, Dec. 19
Saturday, Dec. 21

Purple Line
Wednesday, Dec. 18
Friday, Dec. 20
Saturday, Dec. 21

Orange & Brown Lines
Wednesday, Dec. 4
Thursday, Dec. 5
Friday, Dec. 6
Saturday, Dec. 7

11.27 SUPER8 & TAB
11.28 NADASTROM, SALVA, SINDEN, PORN & CHICKEN
11.29 HEROES X VILLAINS & KENNEDY JONES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO RSVP OR BOOK A TABLE, VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.SOUND-BAR.COM
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Christmas Day at Balsan

11 E. Walton St. 312-646-1470

Time: 2:30-8 p.m. Dec. 25
Price: $78; $34 for kids
Head to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in the Gold Coast for a four-course dinner featuring soft-poached duck egg with wild boar ham, lamb loin with buttered turnips and chocolate-hazelnut buche de noel. For some extra decadence, you can sub out your appetizer for foie gras terrine with winter truffle for an additional $12.

JOLLY GOOD EATS

Make reservations now for these holiday dinners

By Samantha Nelson | FOR REDEYE

Just think how delectable a holiday meal with family or friends would be if you didn't have to A) grocery shop, B) actually cook everything and C) clean up when it's all over. Whether you're looking for a place to share a Feast of the Seven Fishes or Christmas Day dinner or a decadent Christmas Day brunch, local restaurants are busting out special menus to make your holidays a lot happier. TRIBUNE, REDEYE FILE PHOTOS

Feast of the Seven Fishes at Filini Bar & Restaurant

*221 N. Columbus Drive
312-477-0234*

Time: Noon to 10 p.m. Dec. 24
Price: $75
Italian-American families traditionally get together on Christmas Eve for a meatless meal, so it's appropriate for this Italian-inspired restaurant inside the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel to celebrate Feast of the Seven Fishes with a filling seven-course seafood dinner. Dishes include mussel soup, octopus salad and tuna carpaccio along with a glass of prosecco.

Feast of the Seven Fishes at Osteria Via Stato

620 N. State St. 312-642-8450

Time: 4-9:30 p.m. Dec. 24
Price: $48.95
Chef David DiGregorio puts his family's own Feast of the Seven Fishes traditions on display at his River North restaurant, serving up a multi-course meal spotlighting seafood dishes from throughout Italy. Sides and dessert are included, and the regular menu is also available.

Christmas Eve and Day at Mercat a la Planxa

*638 S. Michigan Ave.
312-765-0524*

Time: 5-9 p.m. Dec. 24-25
Price: $65; $35 for kids
Feast on a four-course dinner at the Spanish restaurant inside the South Loop's Blackstone Hotel. Options include serrano ham and fig salad, bacon-wrapped dates stuffed with almonds, jumbo prawns with garlic and chocolate croquettes with banana marshmallow.

Feast of the Seven Fishes at The Florentine

151 Adams St. 312-660-8866

Time: 5-9 p.m. Dec. 24
Price: $55
At the J.W. Marriott in the Loop, chef Chris Macchia celebrates this Italian holiday with a three-course menu including fried calamari, spaghetti with clams and octopus carpaccio. Add wine pairings to your meal for an additional $25.

Christmas Eve and Day at Little Market Brasserie

10 E. Delaware Place 312-640-8141

Time: 5-11 p.m. Dec. 24,
5-8:30 p.m. Dec. 25
Price: $40
For its first Christmas holiday, this restaurant inside Gold Coast's Talbott Hotel is serving a special menu all week long including truffled deviled eggs, prime rib with potato puree and sugar cream pie. You also can order the dishes a la carte along with anything from the regular menu.

LITTLE MARKET
LITTLE MARKET

Christmas Day at Travelle

330 N. Wabash Ave. 312-923-7705

Time: Noon-7 p.m. Dec. 25
Price: $80
Chef Tim Graham serves up a three-course dinner to celebrate his posh River North restaurant's first Christmas. Mediterranean flavors take center stage with dishes such as lamb meatballs and stuffed eggplant, or you can opt for traditional American fare such as a grilled New York strip steak.

Hanukkah at J. Rocco Italian Table and Bar

749 N. Clark St. 312-475-0271

Time: 5-11 p.m. Friday to Dec. 1
Price: Prices vary
Head to River North, where chef Steve Chiappetti is making traditional Hanukkah dishes inspired by recipes from his Jewish mother-in-law. You'll also find some Thanksgiving flavor in the specials, which include potato latkes with cranberry-apple sauce ($7), cranberry sufganiyot ($8) and tzimmes ($7), a stew made with sweet potato, parsnip and prunes.

Check out our other venues for more great New Years Eve parties!

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Please drink responsibly. Drink limits per hour will be enforced. Food will be served for the duration of the event.

DAY-OFF DINING

Use your vacation days to dodge the crowds at 6 popular hangouts

By Kristen Kuchar | FOR REDEYE

Got a few use-'em-or-lose-'em vacation days to burn before the calendar turns over to 2014? Besides sleeping in, having an extra cocktail the night before and watching trashy daytime television, you'll also be able to finally hit up those ever-so-elusive hot spots that are impossible to get into during peak hours. Here's when to visit six hard-to-get-into places.

Girl & the Goat
BARRY BRECHEISEN FILE PHOTO FOR REDEYE

Girl & the Goat

809 W. Randolph St.
312-492-6262

The buzz isn't going to die down any time soon at Stephanie Izard's West Loop restaurant serving fried pickles, duck tongue and confit goat belly among a plethora of small plates. Prime-time reservations are booked until the end of the year, and on a normal night, you can wait more than two hours to get a table. But now that you're off work, you can arrive right when the restaurant opens at 4:30 p.m. or plan on a late dinner after 9 p.m., when seating in the first-come, first-served bar area is easiest to come by.

Three Dots and a Dash

435 N. Clark St. 312-610-4220

Lines quickly form at the back-alley entrance of this tiki-themed River North hot spot, which serves tempting tropical cocktails such as the Painkiller No. 3, made with rum, coconut liqueur, passion fruit, pineapple and cream. With a no-reservations policy, a wait on a busy evening can be at least 30 minutes. Things tend to slow down during dinner hours (7 p.m. to 9 p.m.), and you could have better luck Sundays through Wednesdays before 8 p.m.

Piri piri chicken at Fat Rice
PHIL VELASQUEZ/ TRIBUNE FILE

Fat Rice

2957 W. Diversey Ave.
773-661-9170

At this no-reservations Logan Square restaurant, waits on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays climb up to two hours for diners looking to get a taste of eclectic Portuguese-Chinese fare. The crowds subside a bit on nights the Bulls, Hawks or Bears are playing, or try your luck at 5:30 p.m. or 9 p.m. on weekdays. Parties of more than six are not accepted.

Honey Butter Fried Chicken

3361 N. Elston Ave.
773-478-4000

This Avondale newcomer from the founders of Sunday Dinner Club doesn't take reservations, and with the patio closed for the winter, scoring a seat inside is even more challenging. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., there's typically a 30-minute line just to get to the counter to order. Your best bet is dining on Wednesdays and Thursdays before 6 p.m. or after 8 p.m.

Kuma's Corner

2900 W. Belmont Ave.
773-604-8769

Enduring an hourlong wait for one of Kuma's famous burgers can be torture with the sweet smell of bacon and juicy beef wafting from the kitchen. You'll cut down on your wait time significantly if you come when the Avondale bar opens at 11:15 a.m. and opt for a seat at the bar rather than putting your name in for a table. You'd think that opening a second location, Kuma's Too in Lincoln Park (666 W. Diversey Parkway 773-472-2666), would subdue the lines a bit, but the new location is as popular as the original. Just like at its sister restaurant, try coming Monday through Wednesday during off-peak hours.

The Ghost burger at Kuma's Corner
ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE FILE

Au Cheval

800 W. Randolph St.,
312-929-4580

Diner fare with a gourmet slant—think egg-topped fries, potato hash with duck heart gravy and burgers dripping with melted cheddar—draws hungry fans around the clock to this West Loop hangout. During Saturday and Sunday brunch, the entire restaurant tends to fill up within 10 minutes of opening, and weekend evenings draw a wait by 5:15 p.m. An average wait for Monday through Thursday lunch is about 30 minutes, and the closer you arrive to the 11 a.m. opening time, the better chance to score a table you'll have. Or make the most of a night before your day off and stop in late; the kitchen stays open until 1:30 a.m. (12:30 a.m. on Sundays), Keep in mind that while the kitchen closes every day from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the bar still serves cocktails.

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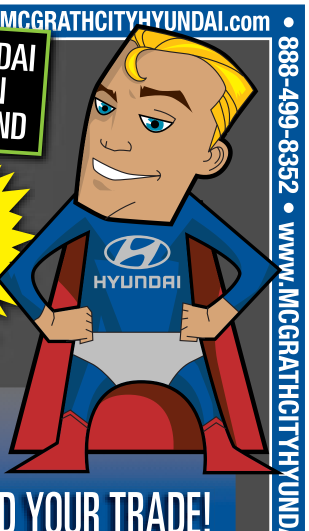

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Stk#Y6893A
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$239 per month**

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Stk#Y7114A
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$239 per month**

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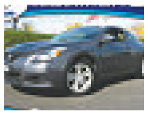
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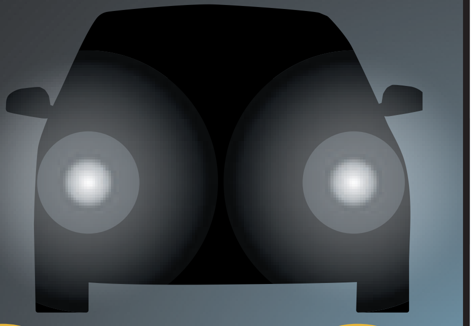

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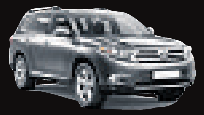

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Longman & Eagle

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL STAY

Alternative hotels and B&Bs for visiting friends and family

By Gwendolyn Purdom | FOR REDEYE

More hotels on p. 32

As much as they love to be close to you, Mom and Dad probably would appreciate an alternative to your futon when they come to visit for the holidays. Rather than shipping them off to a high-rise hotel in the Loop or a room outside O'Hare, we've scoped out some options that keep your out-of-town family nearby—without having to share your bathroom.

LOGAN SQUARE
Longman & Eagle

2657 N. Kedzie Ave.
773-276-7110

Hip relations will dig the stylish vibe in the six art-decked rooms above the popular restaurant and whiskey bar of the same name. Located across from the Logan Square Blue Line stop, the inn gives its guests priority reservation rights at the restaurant and two wooden drink tokens to try out a few of the 100-plus whiskeys behind the bar. Rooms range from $85 to $250. Details: **longmanandeagle.com**

BRONZEVILLE
Welcome Inn Manor

4563 S. Michigan Ave.
312-493-2953

Innkeeper Mell Monroe and his staff at this 1893 historic home-turned-B&B will drop your family members off at their first destination after breakfast. Some of the six rooms here, which range from $139 to $169 in the winter, have fireplaces and Jacuzzis, which might come in handy to warm up chilly relatives after a December day in the city. Details: **welcomeinnmanor.com**

GOLD COAST/OLD TOWN
Flemish House

68 E. Cedar St. 312-664-9981

The eight guest apartments include studios, one-bedrooms and a two-bedroom unit priced between $150 to $325 per night. The 1892 Flemish Revival row house provides continental breakfast and easy access to Old Town, River North and Michigan Avenue attractions. Details: **innchicago.com**

HYDE PARK
Chicago Lake Shore Hotel

4900 S. Lake Shore Drive
800-237-4933

With 184 rooms available, this hotel has views of the lake, free parking, a gym and free Wi-Fi, plus breakfast, lunch and dinner (not included) served in the attached Lake Shore Cafe. Rates go from $109 to $149 a night. Details: **chicagolakeshorehotel.com**

LINCOLN PARK
Villa D'Citta

2230 N. Halsted St.
312-771-0696

For a slightly swankier stay, this 1887 mansion converted into an Italian-style villa has six rooms for rent, with prices ranging from $129 to $399. The kitchen stays stocked with snacks and treats (meats and cheeses for panini-making or fresh-made cookies, for example) and is available to guests at all times. A popular pick for DePaul parents, the inn is just around the corner from the Fullerton Brown, Purple and Red Line station. Details: **villadcitta.com**

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Cat's Cradle

HOTELS

WEST LOOP/ GREEKTOWN

The Parthenon Guest House

310 S. Halsted St. 312-258-1399

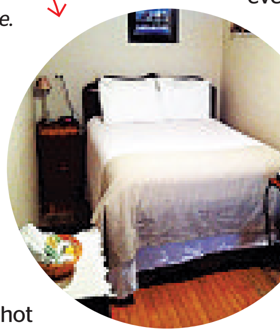
OK, this one is technically a hostel, but there are several private rooms in addition to the dorm-style spaces, and with free breakfast and Internet in a central Greektown location, more laid-back visitors may not mind the European-style experience. Private rooms run anywhere from $55 to $192. Most guests are international travelers; in fact, the staff has a policy against locals (anyone with a Chicago-area ZIP code on their ID) staying there, so only true out-of-towners need apply. Details: **chicagoparthenonhostel.com**

LAKEVIEW

The Old Chicago Inn

3222 N. Sheffield Ave.
773-472-2278

During holiday shopping season, this 10-room B&B offers guests a free gift-wrapping station on Sunday afternoons, complete with ribbons, tags, hot chocolate and cookies. Other perks include free Wi-Fi, free access to a nearby gym and a speakeasy-style bar, Room 13, on the garden level. Rates start at $90 and go up to $175 in December. Details: **oldchicagoinn.com**



ROGERS PARK

Cat's Cradle

7421 N. Sheridan Road
773-764-9851

Your group can rent out one of five rooms or the whole house at this 1919 residence with original woodwork and trim just a block from the lake. December pricing goes from $134 to $199 and includes an extended continental breakfast. Details: **catscradlechicago.com**

BUCKTOWN

Ray's Bucktown Bed & Breakfast

2144 N. Leavitt St. 773-384-3245

"We don't have any Martha Stewart blue or little-old-lady decorations anywhere in the place," innkeeper Ray Reiss said of his laid-back 11-room accommodations. Instead, the inn has a sauna and steam room; free coffee, tea and bottled water; and made-to-order hot breakfast "from whenever the first person wants it until everybody's fed." Rooms range from $119 to $189 a night and reservations by phone are preferred. Details: **raysbucktownbandb.com**

WICKER PARK

Ruby Room

1743-45 W. Division St.
773-235-2323

Serenity is a central theme in these eight overnight rooms attached to a spa, so guests are encouraged to totally unplug: Rooms don't have TVs or phones (though free Wi-Fi is available). The inn has no elevator, but does come with California King beds in each room, steam showers and packages that include spa treatments for an additional charge. Rates go from $130 to $195 a night in December. Details: **rubyroom.com/inn**

ROSCOE VILLAGE

Roscoe Village Guest House

2100 W. Roscoe St.
773-633-3567

A fully stocked kitchen and high-def TVs are a few of the home-style amenities available in this contemporary 11-room guest house. Visitors can rent out a room starting at $169 or spend up to $400 for multi-room suites that can accommodate six to eight people. Details: **roscoevillageguesthouse.com**

BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport Bed and Breakfast

3322 S. Morgan St. 773-927-1122

In addition to the Sunday gospel brunches chef/owner/innkeeper Dave Samber hosts at his attached restaurant, Polo Cafe, his B&B has four rentable, Chicago-themed rooms (think the Sox Suite and Mayor's Suite) with rates ranging from $200 to $400. Guests receive free parking and shuttle service to the nearby train, too. Details: **bridgeportbedandbreakfast.com**

CARS magazine MARKETPLACE

scan to see all of our inventory

MAZDA 2011 MAZDA3,
Only 46K Miles! 5-Speed, CD, All Power,
Immaculate Condition! (P9631) **$12,988 847-231-2559**

scan to see all of our inventory

MAZDA 2010 CX-7,
Heated Seats, Moonroof, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys!
Nicely Loaded! (V4417A) **$13,488 847-231-2559**

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CHEVY 2012 MALIBU LTZ,
Low 40K Miles! Heated Leather, Moonroof, Bluetooth, Alloys!
(P9661) **$17,898 847-231-2559**

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HONDA 2009 CR-V EXL AWD,
59K Miles! Heated Leather, 6-Disc CD, Moonroof, Alloys!
(P9552) **$18,748 847-231-2559**

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BMW 2002 328xi,
Auto, Heated Leather, Moonroof, CD, Alloys, Mint Condition!
(V4427A) **$6,995 847-231-2559**

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VW 2006 JETTA TDi,
Only 80K Miles! Heated Leather, Moonroof, CD, Alloys,
Power Loaded! Extra Nice! (714379A) **$11,965 866-503-8017**

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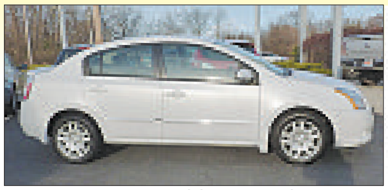
SUBARU 2009 IMPREZA 2.5i SPORT WAGON,
Only 44K Miles! CD, Traction, Keyless Entry! (714304A)
$13,925 866-503-8017



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NISSAN 2011 SENTRA 2.0,
43K Miles! Auto, CD, Alloys, & Spoilers! (P9634)
$12,280 847-264-4283

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HONDA 2007 CRV EX,
All Power Options, CD, Traction, Keyless Entry! Alloys!
(P9650) **$11,990 847-264-4283**

scan to see all of our inventory

SUBARU 2013 LEGACY AWD PREMIUM,
30K Miles! Heated Seats, Full Power, CD, Bluetooth, & Alloys!
(P9600) **$19,995 847-264-4283**

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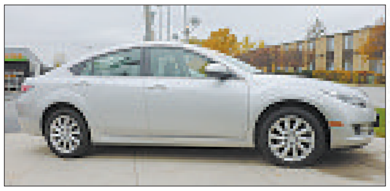
CHEVY 2007 TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4, Low Miles! Power
Leather, CD, Dual Temperature Control, Alloys! Immaculate
Condition! (P9485) **$9,995 847-264-4283**



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MAZDA 2012 MAZDA6,
41K Miles! Auto, Full Power, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys!
Save Lots From New! (P9576) **$14,490 847-264-4283**

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HONDA 2009 CR-V EXL AWD,
59K Miles! Heated Leather, 6-Disc CD, Moonroof, Alloys!
(P9552) **$18,748 847-231-2559**

scan to see all of our inventory

MAZDA 2010 CX-7,
Heated Seats, Moonroof, Bluetooth, CD, Alloys!
Nicely Loaded! (V4417A) **$13,488 847-231-2559**

scan to see all of our inventory

SUBARU 2009 IMPREZA 2.5i SPORT WAGON,
Only 44K Miles! CD, Traction, Keyless Entry! (714304A)
$13,925 866-503-8017

scan to see all of our inventory

VW 2012 BEETLE 2.0 TURBO,
Only 11K Miles! Auto, CD, Alloys, & Power!
(1246A) **$18,598 312-902-FIAT**

scan to see all of our inventory

SUBARU 2009 LEGACY LIMITED AWD,
47K Extra Low Miles! Auto, Moonroof, & Leather! One Owner!
(1211A) **$14,985 312-902-FIAT**

scan to see all of our inventory

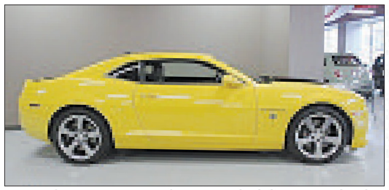
TOYOTA 2011 RAV4 4WD,
Low Miles! Auto, Moonroof, CD, Alloys, & Power! (1160A)
$17,865 312-902-FIAT

scan to see all of our inventory

SUBARU 2006 LEGACY OUTBACK LIMITED AWD,
Heated Leather, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, & Power! (1250A)
$13,595 312-902-FIAT

scan to see all of our inventory

MINI 2011 COOPER COUNTRYMAN S,
Heated Leather, Dual Moonroofs, Power, & More! (1203A)
$18,895 312-902-FIAT



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CHEVY 2011 CAMARO SS TRANSFORMER EDITION,
Only 20K Miles! Heated Leather, Moonroof, Bose,
Power & Performance! (1392A) **$26,895 312-902-FIAT**

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Stk. #XD1634
$16,999*

New 2013 Chevy
MALIBU LS
Sedan! Stk. #D1657
$17,999*

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New 2014 Chevy
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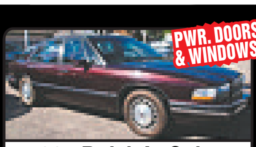
Stk. #E1021
$27,999*

New 2013 Chevy
CAMARO LS
Stk. #XD1572
$20,999*

New 2014 Chevy
EQUINOX LS
Stk. #E1159
$22,999*

New 2014 Chevy
IMPALA LS
Stk. #E1240
$25,999*

Bad Credit, No Credit? NO PROBLEM!



PWR. DOORS & WINDOWS!
1995 Buick LeSabre
Stk. #D1005N
$2,991*

WELL EQUIPPED!
2001 Dodge Intrepid
Stk. #D1520A
$2,995*

ONE OWNER!
2010 Chevy Aveo
Stk. #D1414A
$6,991*

3RD ROW!
2003 GMC Envoy
Stk. #3383A
$6,987*

LOW MILES!
2010 Chevy Malibu
Stk. #D1708A
$14,995*

ONE OWNER!
2013 Chevy Captiva
Stk. #CP2490
$18,995*

UNDER $6,000

2002 Chrysler Sebring LX Stk. #D1659A	$1,991*
1998 Buick Century Stk. #CP2387A	$2,991*
2003 Chevy TrailBlazer Stk. #E1152A	$3,991*
2003 Chevy Impala Stk. #3018D	$4,730*
2003 Saturn Ion Stk. #3286B	$4,858*
2004 Dodge Stratus Stk. #3027D	$4,882*
2004 Saab 9-3 Stk. #D1352B	$4,991*
2001 Ford Taurus SE Stk. #D1074A	$4,991*
1998 Ford Mustang Stk. #D1025B	$4,991*
1999 Ford Expedition Stk. #E1351A	$4,995*
2003 Mitsubishi Diamante Stk. #P5095A	$5,763*
2002 GMC Sierra Stk. #X2405A	$5,796*
2005 Chevy Cobalt Stk. #D1450A	$5,991*
2004 Chevy Aveo Stk. #D1436A	$5,991*
1996 Chevy Tahoe Stk. #E1190A	$5,995*

CARS

2007 Kia Rondo Stk. #3597A	$6,990*
2006 Ford Taurus Stk. #X2476A	$6,990*
2010 Chevy Aveo Stk. #D14141A	$6,991*
2006 Buick LaCrosse Stk. #E1063A	$6,991*
2006 Chevy Malibu Maxx Stk. #D1362A	$6,991*
2004 Chevy Impala Stk. #IP13166B	$6,999*
2006 Pontiac Grand Prix Stk. #3422A	$7,125*
2003 Pontiac Grand Prix Stk. #E1239B	$7,995*
1998 Cadillac Eldorado Stk. #E1143B	$7,995*
2008 Chevy Aveo Stk. #CP2488	$8,995*
2009 Chevy Impala Stk. #P5074A	$9,679*
2010 Chevy Cobalt Stk. #D1569A	$9,990*
2009 Mitsubishi Galant Stk. #D11260	$9,991*
2008 Chevy Malibu Stk. #D1237A	$9,991*
2006 Chrysler 300 Stk. #D1721A	$9,995*

TRUCKS, SUVs & VANS

2004 Honda Element Stk. #3502B	$6,597*
2003 GMC Envoy XL Stk. #3383A	$6,987*
2008 Chrysler PT Cruiser Stk. #1982A	$6,990*
2004 Kia Sedona Stk. #D1736A	$7,999*
2006 Jeep Liberty Sport Stk. #3225A	$9,842*
2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee Stk. #E1274A	$9,999*
2007 Saturn Vue Stk. #X2686A	$11,990*
2008 Chevrolet Equinox Stk. #1748A	$12,899*

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HO-HO-SHOWS

Finding Frosty: When to watch your favorite holiday specials

By Curt Wagner | REDEYE

The holiday season is in full swing on TV. From the Grinch to "A Christmas Story" and beyond, here's a look at what holiday classics and new specials are set to air. Find the full lineup at **redeyechicago.com/holidays**.

CWWAGNER@TRIBUNE.COM | @SHOWPATROL

FRIDAY

7 p.m. **"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas,"** ABC (1966 animated masterpiece)

7 p.m. **"Hoops & Yoyo Ruin Christmas,"** CBS (animated kitty and bunny stow away on Santa's sleigh)

7:30 p.m. **"Shrek the Halls,"** ABC (the ogre and his friends celebrate holidays)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. **"The Polar Express,"** ABC Family (movie; Boy rides a magical train)

6 p.m. **"Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas,"** ABC Family (2000 live-action movie)

8 p.m. **"Christmas in Conway,"** ABC (movie; Man wants to give perfect holiday gift to wife. Andy Garcia, Mary-Louise Parker star.)

MONDAY

5 p.m. **"Winnie the Pooh and Christmas Too,"** ABC Family (Winnie the Pooh and Piglet rush to deliver Christopher Robin's letter to Santa)

7 p.m. **"The Santa Clause,"** ABC Family (movie; Tim Allen becomes Santa)

7 p.m. **"A Charlie Brown Christmas,"** ABC (best Christmas Tree ever?)

8 p.m. **"CMA Country Christmas,"** ABC (music from Trace Adkins, Luke Bryan, Sheryl Crow, others)

TUESDAY

9 p.m. **"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation,"** ABC Family (movies; Griswolds celebrate holidays)

WEDNESDAY

5 p.m. **"Scrooged,"** ABC Family (movie; Bill Murray does Dickens)

7 p.m. **"Christmas in Rockefeller Center,"** NBC (music, more)

8 p.m. **"Saturday Night Live Christmas,"** NBC (skits)

THURSDAY

5 p.m. **"Rudolph's Shiny New Year,"** ABC Family (red-nosed reindeer gets a sequel)

7 p.m. **"The Sound of Music Live!"** NBC (new version of film, done live)

8 p.m. **"Glee,"** Fox (filmed last year, this "lost" Christmas special finally airs.)

8 p.m. **"The Muppet Christmas Carol,"** ABC Family (movie; Muppets do Dickens)

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

7 p.m. **"Frosty the Snowman,"** CBS (Frosty comes to life)

SATURDAY DEC. 7

6 a.m. **"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Island of Misfit Toys,"** ABC Family (Rudolph and misfit toys save Christmas)

8 p.m. **"My Crazy Obsession: Christmas Collection 2,"** TLC

8 p.m. **"The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause,"** (Tim Allen vs. Martin Short)

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

6 p.m. **"Guess Who's Coming to Christmas,"** UP TV (movie; Jaded rock star (Drew Lachey) stays with pastor's family, learns to be better person; encores at 8, 10)

TUESDAY, DEC. 10

5 p.m. **"A Chipmunk Christmas,"** ABC Family (Alvin gives his harmonica to a sick kid)

8 p.m. **"Christmas with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir,"** PBS (music)

9 p.m. **"A Very Amish Christmas,"** Discovery

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

9 p.m. **"Kelly Clarkson's Cautionary Christmas Music Tale,"** NBC (music)

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

7:30 p.m. **"Babes In Toyland,"** Hallmark Movie Channel (movie)

9 p.m. **"Tanked Holiday Special,"** Discovery

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

6 p.m. **"Marry Me for Christmas,"** UP (movie; romantic home-for-the-holidays drama)

7 p.m. **"It's A Wonderful Life,"** NBC (movie; Jimmy Stewart's holiday classic get an encore Dec. 24)

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

6 p.m. **"Extreme Xmas,"** Travel (holiday special)

7 p.m. **"The Simpsons: White Christmas Blues,"** Fox (Christmas special)

7 p.m. **"Treehouse Masters: Santa's Workshop,"** Discovery (holiday special)

MONDAY, DEC. 16

7 a.m. **"Battle of the Nutcrackers: San Francisco Ballet's Nutcracker,"** Ovation (filmed in 2008; encores 7 a.m. Dec. 20, 1:30 p.m. Dec. 21, 8 a.m. Dec. 25)

8 p.m. **"The Santa Clause 2: The Mrs. Clause,"** ABC Family (movie; Tim Allen's Santa needs a wife.)

8 p.m. **"Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas,"** Fox (mammoths celebrated a long time before the birth of Christ)

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

6:30 p.m. **"Mickey's Christmas Carol,"** ABC Family (Disney gang does Dickens)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18

7 p.m. **"A Home For the Holidays with Celine Dion,"** CBS (music)

9 p.m. **"Michael Buble's 3rd annual Holiday Special,"** NBC (music)

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

4 p.m. **"The Hollywood Christmas Parade,"** Hallmark

7 p.m. **"The I Love Lucy Christmas Special,"** CBS (lost holiday episode colorized)

7 p.m. **"Christmas in Washington"** TNT (music from Backstreet Boys, Sheryl Crow, Janelle Monae, others)

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

5 p.m. **"The Santa Clause"** Movie Trilogy Marathon, ABC Family (in case you missed individual airings)

6:30 p.m. **"The Little Drummer Boy,"** ABC Family (stop-motion classic)

7 p.m. **"I Want A Dog for Christmas, Charlie Brown!"** ABC (Linus' brother Rerun wants a new dog)

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

7 p.m. 24 Hours of **"A Christmas Story,"** TBS (watch the hilarious holiday classic all Christmas Eve and Day)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

8 a.m. Christmas Classics Marathon, Hallmark Movie Channel (**"Holiday Affair," "Babes in Toyland," "The Bishop's Wife," "Christmas in Connecticut," "It Happened on Fifth Avenue"**)

9 a.m. **"Disney Parks Christmas Day Parade,"** ABC

8 p.m. **"Doctor Who: The Time of the Doctor,"** BBC America (Christmas episode)

Shopping escapes

By Kristen Kuchar | FOR REDEYE

Ugly sweater parties, peppermint mochas and those slightly addicting holiday tunes creeping on the radio are all pretty good indicators that it's about time you started cracking on your holiday gift list. Regardless of where you're shopping this holiday season, one thing is for sure: You're going to work an appetite doing it. Friends don't let friends shop with low blood sugar, so make time to stop and recharge at these bars and restaurants in five of the city's most popular shopping districts.

More shopping on p. 38

Michigan Avenue
SCOTT STRAZZANTE/TRIBUNE

STATE STREET

State Street is the anchor of the Loop's shopping scene, with a nice mix of high-end and affordable options to fit any budget. Your best bets for one-stop shops are Macy's (111 N. State St. 312-781-1000) and neighboring mall Block 37 (108 N. State St. 312-261-4737) featuring shops such as Godiva Chocolatier, the Disney Store, soap shop Sabon and Chicago-centric jewelry boutique Local Charm.

Vapiano

44 S. Wabash Ave. 312-384-1960

At this upscale cafeteria-style eatery, pastas, pizza and salads are swifty prepared in front of you while you wait. Match your choice of pasta with sauces such as creamy crayfish-lobster ($11.95) or bolognese ($10.95). The spicy orange fennel salad ($10.95) with shrimp or vanilla bean panna cotta ($2.50) can get you back to shopping.

Yonder

5 S. Wabash Ave. 3rd floor
312-465-5280

This Southern picnic-themed cafeteria hidden inside the Jewelers Center is just right to kick off a morning shopping session with hearty breakfast options such as crunchy French toast ($5.75) or gluten-free buckwheat pancakes ($4.50). Opt for a more traditional southern breakfast such as biscuits and gravy ($4.50) or creamy shrimp and grits ($9.25). If you're around for lunch, warm up with jambalaya ($7.25) or seafood chowder ($4.75).

The Gage

24 S. Michigan Ave. 312-372-4243

Stop in this cozy gastropub for warm and filling options such as fries with curry gravy ($7), fried pickles with a smoked serrano aioli ($8) and a beer-braised short rib sandwich ($16). Treat yourself to an apple cider doughnut topped with maple ice cream and spiced pecans ($9).

MAG MILE

The sheer number of stores along Michigan Avenue make it worth braving the touristy crowds. The 900 North Michigan Shops (900 N. Michigan Ave. 312-915-3916) building is home to a six-level Bloomingdale's and gift jackpots such as Williams-Sonoma, Galt Toys and custom handbag shop 1154 Lill Studio. Across the street, there's the eight-level Water Tower Place (835 N. Michigan Ave. 312-440-3166) and farther south, The Shops at North Bridge (520 N. Michigan Ave. 312-327-2300) anchored by Nordstorm. Not to be missed standalone stores include Zara (700 N. Michigan Ave. 312-255-8123) and Topshop (830 N. Michigan Ave. 312-280-6834).

Bar Toma

110 E. Pearson St.
312-266-3110

Decompress with a refreshing cocktail such as the Sardinian 27 ($12) made with vodka, prosecco, mint and raspberries, or the sangria bianco ($30 for a pitcher, $10 for a glass). Twenty different varieties of pizza baked in a wood-burning oven range from a basic margherita ($14) to the clam and bacon casino ($17) or mortadella pizza with black truffles ($18).

Cured meat at The Purple Pig
METROMIX FILE

The Purple Pig

500 N. Michigan Ave. 312-464-1744

The promise of wine and cheese should be enough to convince your friends to make a pitstop here. Share small plates such as chorizo-stuffed olives and eggplant parmesan balls or choose from a long list of cured meats, cheeses and smears.

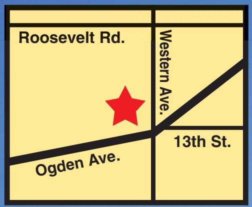
Eno

505 N. Michigan Ave. 312-321-8738

Break up your day with cheese flights ($12) at this wine bar tucked inside the Intercontinental Chicago hotel. Each flight boasts a cute name based on the style (such as Cheddar is Better and Blues Brothers) or origin (such as Midwest Culture). For a sugar boost, try chocolate flights ($11) including the Some Like it Hot flight with raspberry-chipotle, curry-saffron and three pepper chocolates. Pair one with a dessert wine such as the Churchill Vintage Character port ($15) and you're ready to get back out there.

BLACK FRIDAY DEALS

1 WEEK ONLY – ENDS 12/07/13



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Offer valid on purchases made between October 1 and December 31, 2013.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL

$10 OIL CHANGE
INCLUDES OIL FILTER, DISPOSAL FEE AND TAX!!

Up to 5 quarts.
Synthetic Oil Extra.
See store for details.
Most Cars and Light Trucks.
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/07/13.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
FREE
EXHAUST INSPECTION
$20 OFF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS AND MUFFLERS
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/7/13.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
FREE
BRAKE PADS
With Any Brake Service.
Most Cars and Light Trucks.
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/7/13.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
For "Check Engine" Warning or Emissions Failure
FREE
CHECK
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING
Most Cars and Light Trucks.
Smoke Test Extra. See store for complete service description and details.
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/7/13.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
$15 OFF SERVICES MORE THAN $100
$30 OFF SERVICES MORE THAN $200
$45 OFF SERVICES MORE THAN $300
Most Cars and Light Trucks.
See store for complete service description and details.
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/7/13.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
$5 TIRE ROTATION
Most Cars and Light Trucks.
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/7/13.

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
FREE
Get Ready for Winter
BATTERY INSPECTION
$10 OFF ANY BATTERY PURCHASE
Not valid with any other offer. Coupon must be present at time of purchase.
Offer expires 12/7/13.

WE ACCEPT EXTENDED WARRANTIES. 6 MONTHS NO INTEREST FINANCING

SHOPPING ESCAPE

glazed and infused
GLAZED

Glazed and Infused
ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE FILE

BUCKTOWN

Tucked between fashion-forward women's clothing shops on Bucktown's jam-packed shopping strip, Damen Avenue, look for gems such as home and gift boutique Virtu (2034 N. Damen Ave. 773-235-3790), edgy jewelry store Alexis Bittar (1710 N. Damen Ave. 773-486-5627) and Stitch (1723 N. Damen Ave. 773-782-1570), which closes its doors for good at the end of the year.

Glazed and Infused

1576 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-226-5556

Start your spree with something sweet from this walk-up doughnut window located adjacent to Francesca's Forno. Holiday flavors include pumpkin-chocolate chip and apple caramel ($3 each).

Grass Fed

1721 N. Damen Ave. 773-342-6000

Work up enough of an appetite for a full meal? Get your fill of the namesake grass-fed beef in dishes such as a grilled sirloin salad ($16) or a burger with shallot-cherry jam ($15). Any post-shopping stress can be soothed with cocktail such as the Light and Stormy ($12) made with ginger beer, lemon juice and rum, or the Last Phrase ($12) made with gin, chamomile tea syrup and green chartreuse.

Sublime Sushi

2009 N. Damen Ave. 773-772-8744

Swing by during lunch hours (11 a.m.-4 p.m.) to take advantage of killer sushi specials; choose two maki for $9.95 (or three for $13.95) from options such as spicy salmon, asparagus-avocado, sweet potato tempura, spicy scallop and California roll. For a grab-and-go option, try one of the sandwiches such as the chicken satay ($7), peanut tofu ($7) or teriyaki steak ($8).

GOLD COAST

Shopping for the label lover on your list couldn't be more efficient in the Gold Coast, with stores such as Barneys New York (15 E. Oak St. 312-587-1700), The Denim Lounge (43 E. Oak St. 312-642-6403), Kate Spade (56 E. Oak St. 312-654-8853) and Marc Jacobs (11 E. Walton St. 312-649-7260) all clustered within walking distance.

Doc B's Fresh Kitchen

100 E. Walton St. 312-626-1300

For lunch, this Gold Coast newcomer features soups that rotate daily, plus more than a half dozen burgers, sandwiches and pizzas to choose from. Fuel up with a Wisconsin cheddar grilled cheese sandwich ($7) or pizzas such as the El Verde ($13) with avocado, pickled jalapeno and cotija cheese. Drink options range from classic cocktails such as old fashioneds ($11) and martinis ($12) to signature recipes such as The Natural ($11), a mix of rum, strawberry, mint and cracked pepper.

Sprinkles

50 E. Walton St. 312-573-1600

Power through your last shop stops with a sugar rush at this cupcake shop. Holiday-inspired flavors include dark chocolate cupcakes topped with a blue Star of David, chocolate-peppermint, vanilla-peppermint and eggnog spice, which features spice cake topped with a eggnog-cream cheese icing ($3.50 each). Two more hints: 1. If you find yourself there after hours, the cupcake vending machine out front dispenses your fix 24 hours a day. 2. Bring an unwrapped gift for the shop's toy drive between Dec. 1 and 15 and score a free cupcake.

Little Market Brasserie

10 E. Delaware Place 312-640-8141

Kick back with your shopping buddies at this spacious restaurant inside the Talbott Hotel and share dishes such as ceviche ($13.50), seared scallops ($22.50) and beets with goat cheese and pistachios ($12.50). Raise a glass to a successful day of deal-scoring with cocktails such as a white grape-basil gin and tonic ($10) or a ginger smash with bourbon and mint ($11).

LINCOLN PARK

Plot a shopping path along Armitage Avenue between Racine Avenue and Halsted Street and you'll find everything from fun and funky housewares at Art Effect (934 W. Armitage Ave. 773-929-3600), indulgent bath goodies at Lush (859 W. Armitage Ave. 773-281-5874) and an abundance of shoes plus scarves and jewelry at Lori's Shoes (824 W. Armitage Ave. 773-281-5655).

WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE FILE

Taco Joint

1969 N. Halsted St. 312-951-2457

Peel off your scarves, gloves and other various layers to welcome a much-needed margarita in flavors such as chili-mango ($9) or tropical ($9.50). The street food-inspired menu is ideal for a quick snack; choose from options such as flautitas ($6) or tacos filled with cochinita (Yucatan pulled pork, $3) or beer-battered tilapia with creamy cabbage slaw ($3).

Zizi's Cafe

2825 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-697-9228

Don't have much time to take away from your shopping mission? Spare a few minutes at this counter-service eatery, which serves traditional Turkish and Mediterranean foods that are quickly prepared in an open kitchen. Try the lamb doner kebab on a pita ($7.50), veggie moussaka ($11.95) or falafel ($4.95).

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

Butcher & The Burger

1021 W. Armitage Ave. 773-697-3735

At this old-fashioned butcher meets burger shop, you can design your burger by starting with patties such as grass-fed bison ($14.50), lentil-brown rice burger ($7.75) or a local beef blend ($8.95). Next, pick a spice blend—such as Chicago steakhouse, Cajun or curry-coconut-honey—to mix in. Then choose your type of bun and what's going on top; toppings range from wasabi mayo to goat cheese to black truffle aioli (add $1).

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P17657A, $3,977

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RED-7 PASS-LOADED
P17725A, $4,977

2005 CADILLAC CTS
SILVER-LTHR-MANUAL TRANS
49459B, $5,977

2005 MERCURY MONTEGO
GRAY-V6-LTHR-ROOF-CLEAN
13444A, $6,977

2006 MERCURY MILAN
BLACK-LEATHER-ROOF
13577A, $7,577

2001 FORD F-150 XLT
BLACK-4x4-V8-LOADED
13237B, $7,977

2003 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER
GRAY-V6-4x4-LEATHER
49807A, $8,977

2007 CHEVY HHR
SILVER-LT PKG-FULL PWR
XP17614, $8,977

2007 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GS
BLACK-CONVT-LOW MILES
P17691A, $8,977

2007 HONDA ODYSSEY
SILVER-FULL POWER-V6
P17709A, $9,977

2007 DODGE CARAVAN
BLUE-LEATHER-DVD-NICE
12799B, $11,977

2007 CHRYSLER 300
PEARL WHITE-V6-LOADED
P17511, $12,977

2010 NISSAN ALTIMA
BLUE-ALLOYS-4CYL-FULL PWR
P17477, $14,977

2009 FORD EDGE SE
SILVER-V6-CLEAN
49673A, $15,577

2009 FORD EXPLORER
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49646A, $15,877

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49658A, $15,977

2010 FORD TRANSIT CONNECT
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WHITE-NICE
P17653A, $15,977

2013 DODGE DART SXT
SILVER-4CYL-NICE
XP17655, $16,577

2008 AUDI A4 3.2 QUATTRO
BLACK-LTHR-ROOF-NAVI-V6
P17723A, $16,977

2011 MITSUBISHI ENDEAVOR
WHITE-LOADED-V6-ALLOYS
13018B, $16,977

2012 FORD TAURUS SEL
DK RED-LOADED-ALLOYS
XP17677, $17,977

2012 HYUNDAI SANTA FE GLS
PEARL WHITE-LOADED
XP17573, $18,577

2013 JEEP COMPASS
GRAY-FULL POWER-FWD
49547A, $18,977

2011 VW TIGUAN
SILVER-AWD-LOW MILES-MUST SEE
13473A, $19,977

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BLACK-ROOF-LEATHER-
SOUND AND VIDEO SYSTEM
49785A, $29,977

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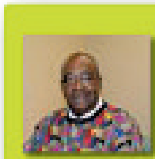

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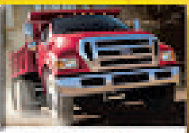

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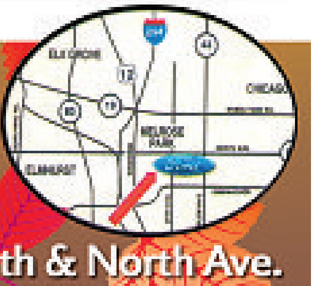

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in Melrose Park

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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5	4	2	1	6	7	8	9	3
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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

P	O	S	E	■	R	E	N	A	L	■	U	N	D	O
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R	O	O	K	■	R	O	U	G	E	■	M	I	L	E
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C	A	N	T	■	S	I	N	G	E	■	H	O	L	D
H	U	E	S	■	E	D	G	E	R	■	E	N	D	S

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

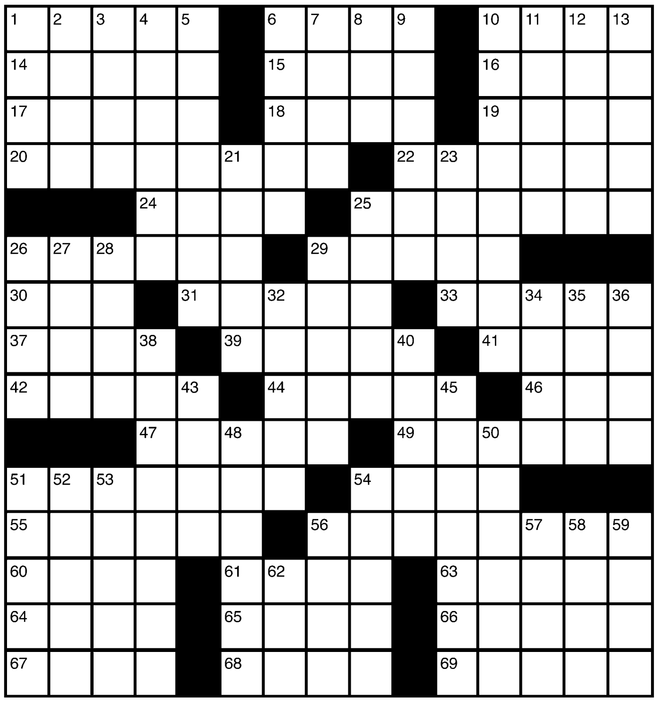
1929: Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard Byrd radioed that he had made the first airplane flight over the South Pole.

1961: A chimpanzee named Enos was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft, which orbited the Earth twice before returning.

2001: Former Beatles guitarist, singer and songwriter George Harrison died in Los Angeles following a battle with cancer; he was 58.

ACROSS

1 Fall flower
6 Ivan the Terrible's title
10 Commander of a ship: abbr.
14 Rent long-term
15 Roll call response
16 Canton's state
17 __ off; leaves suddenly
18 Annoys
19 Payment to a landlord
20 Actor in "The Godfather"
22 Fancy
24 Largest brass instrument
25 Liberty
26 Noisy brawls
29 Bishop's hat
30 "__ Maria"
31 Refuse to comply
33 "Ode to a Nightingale" poet John __
37 As __ as the ocean
39 Schnozes
41 Urgent; critical
42 School composition
44 Up and about
46 Morning grass blade moisture
47 Name for a Stooge
49 Game defeats
51 Irrigated
54 Combine, as funds
55 Chairperson's schedule
56 Baked Alaska & creme brulee
60 Walking stick
61 Harp of old
63 Giggler's noise
64 Smooch
65 Submissive
66 Happening
67 Individuals
68 Tools with teeth
69 Browses



DOWN

1 Actor Alan __
2 Official stamp
3 Waterproof covering
4 Manor and the land around it
5 Lifeguard, at times
6 Beijing's nation
7 Two minus two
8 Noah's boat
9 Vacation spot
10 Boxed in
11 In the lead
12 Splotchy pony
13 Tribal pole
21 Playwright Henrik __
23 Give off a strong smell
25 __ mignon
26 Created
27 Arden & Plumb
28 Bruce & Spike
29 Sloppy
32 Plank
34 Assists
35 Sequoia or elm
36 Stitches
38 Lack of color in the cheeks
40 Storage towers
43 Three feet
45 Farmer's alarm clock?
48 Kingdoms
50 Part of a coat
51 Nutty
52 Once more
53 Uptight
54 Quick glances
56 Sketched
57 Ms. Perlman
58 Take care of
59 Matching pairs
62 Truly; verily

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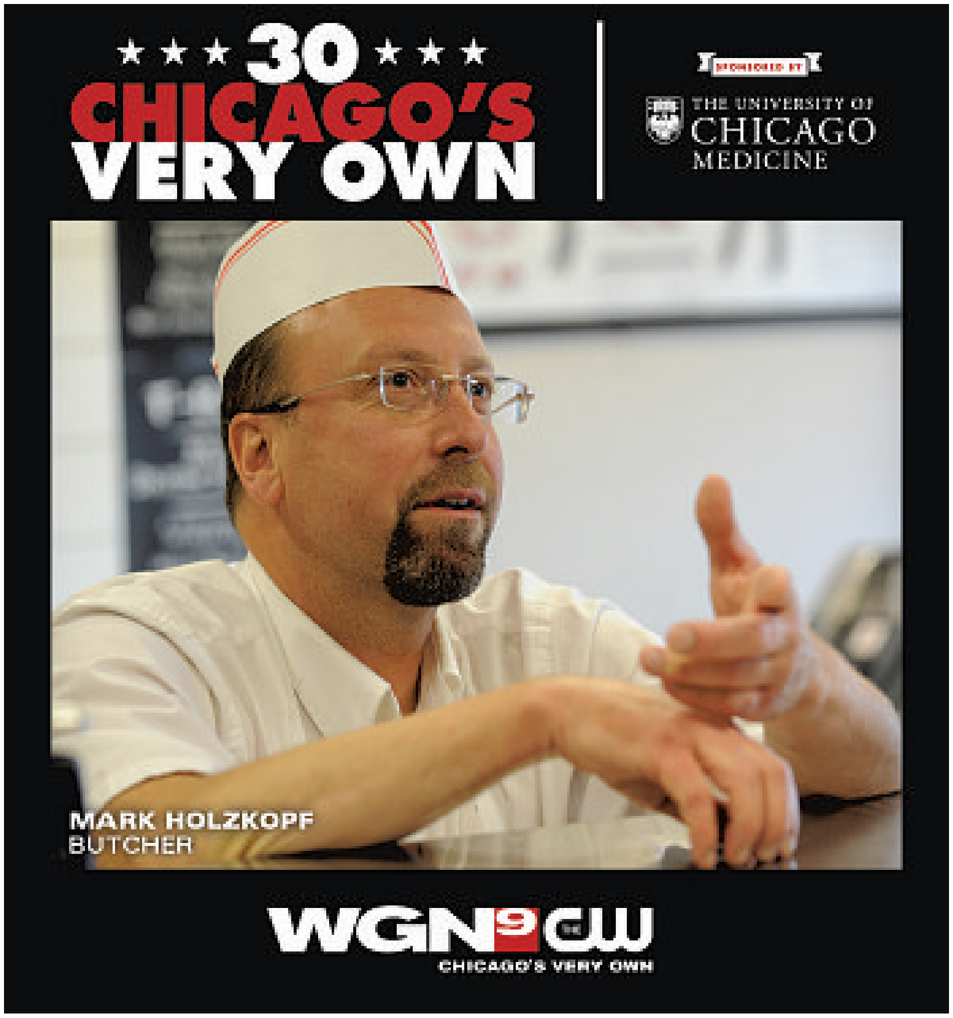

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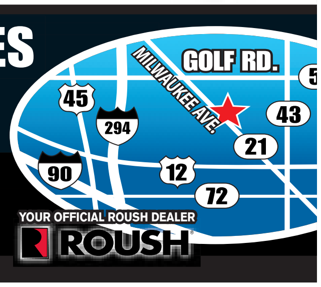

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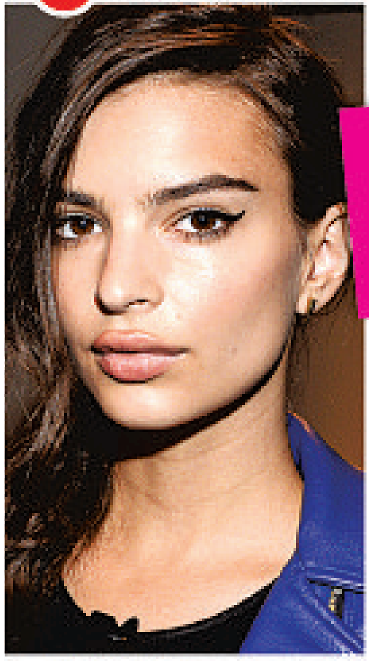
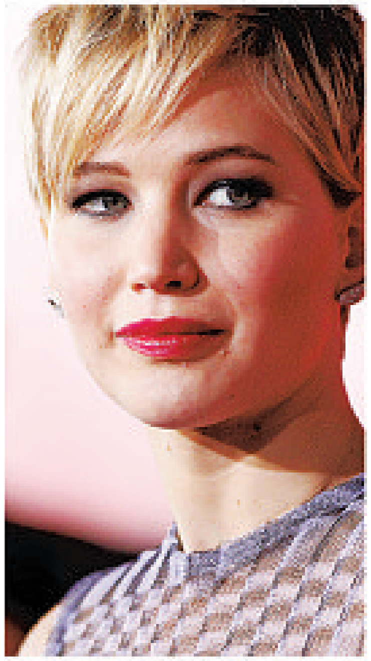




FOOD COMA

CAN YOU MATCH THE QUOTE TO THE (PROBABLY) STUFFED CELEB WHO SAID IT?

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Turkey, turkey, turkey. Down in our bellies. As you're sleepily making your way through your Friday, celebs are off somewhere saying ridiculous things. It's just a fact of life. See if you can pair the famous face with the quote in this special holiday matchup edition.

DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA; REUTERS, GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS

1 “I passed that turkey backstage, and I thought for one second about putting it on my head and running out, but then I thought, 'Ehh, you have enough attention. Maybe it's time to rest.' ”

2 “I mean, he's a man who doesn't eat spaghetti hoops, so you know he doesn't get a lot of carbs in his diet.”

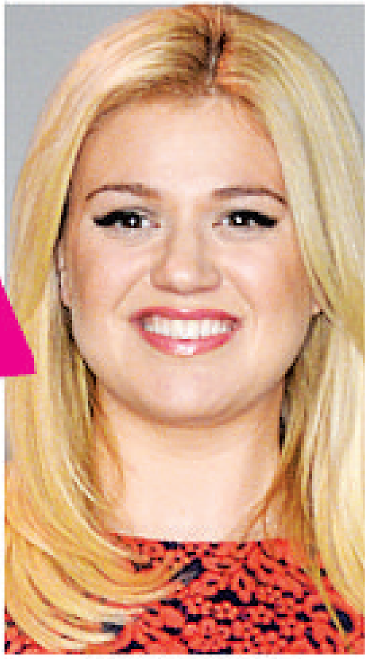
3 “Sometimes you just need a Hallmark card. Sometimes you just need to shake your ass.”

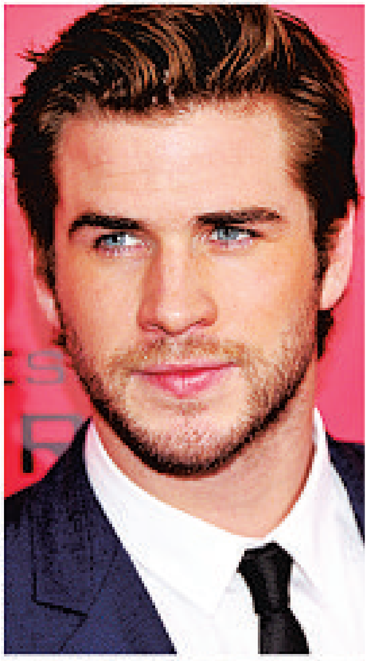
4 “When I first saw the video, I was like, Oh, Jesus Christ, I'm so naked.”

5 “These days I feel like I'm more centered and grounded than I've ever been.”

6 “[When I started dating him], in my head, I was like, 'I'm already married to you!' ”

ANSWERS 1. Jennifer Lawrence, to Jon Stewart on “The Daily Show”; 2. “The Walking Dead” star David Morrissey, to Vulture, on losing weight for his return to the show; 3. Pharrell Williams, to GQ, on his biggest hits from 2013; 4. Emily Ratajkowski, to GQ, on her appearance in the “Blurred Lines” video; 5. Liam Hemsworth, to People magazine, on life post-Miley; 6. Kelly Clarkson, to People magazine, on not spending this holiday season alone





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	1998 PONTIAC SUN FIRE	$2,995
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	2007 DODGE CALIBER	$4,995
	2004 DODGE DURANGO	$6,995
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A grinch. Not necessarily a green one.	Greenpeace worker	Moonboots	A screaming child	Figgy pudding
Giant Christmas tree in Pioneer Court	Giuliana Rancic pushing a stroller	Empty cereal boxes on Clark Street	A huge line outside Garrett Popcorn Shops	Six or more empty wine bottles
Kristin Cavallari shopping for baby clothes	Giant paper hats from Dick's Last Resort	FREE SPACE	Greenpeace worker	Black panties, or R. Kelly's "Black Panties"
A poorly disguised Blackhawks player on Michigan Ave.	Zamboni machine on the Millennium Park rink	Enormous take-out bags from the Cheesecake Factory	RedEye staffer Ernest Wilkins	A dog in a zesty sweater
Greenpeace worker	Street musician playing non-holiday music	Wreaths on the Art Institute lions	The CTA Holiday Train	A seriously steaming mug of cider

PLAY ALONG ALL MONTH WITH OUR SEASONAL BINGO

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening? No? That's probably because your visiting family is too busy squabbling over who gets the good air mattress and which Lou Malnati's will have the shortest line. (Hint: It's not a downtown location.) But because that's probably where you'll end up over the holidays, bring this handy bingo card along to entertain the fam, and also distract them from that giant patch of ice just ahead.

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